■ Sports / A28

Spurs take Game 1 of NBA Finals

■ Business / B1

Gov't sees sale of PNB by September

■ News / A3

They're queer; they're here

■ News / A2

Senators halt 'jueteng' probe for two weeks

■ Super / C4

THE INQUEST REVELATION PARTY

Jerson Morales' murderer revealed tonight

True to his word, Mikey sues accuser for libel

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Taking what he called a "bold step" in clearing his name, Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo yesterday filed a P5.5-million libel suit against "jueteng" whistle-blower Sandra Cam for

TRUE/ A22

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

'Pirates' have 'GMA tapes,' but they're not selling yet

By Christian V. Esguerra

IT'S NOW available on CD.

The controversial audio tape of a bugged conversation allegedly between President Macapagal-Arroyo

PIRATES/ A21

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Saturday, June 11, 2005 ★★ ~~96~~ 88 pages / 12 sections / Vol. 19 / No. 183 P18
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LOOKING unruffled amid the scandals swirling around her and her family, President Macapagal-Arroyo spent part of Friday receiving the credentials of ambassadors from different foreign countries.

EDWIN BACASMAS

'Mother of all tapes' surfaces

Former NBI exec says GMA cheated

By Tarra V. Quismundo and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

A FORMER deputy chief of the National Bureau of Investigation surfaced yesterday to claim he has "the mother of all tapes" allegedly showing President Macapagal-Arroyo fixed last year's elections and said they were provided by friends in the military intelligence service.

Samuel Ong appeared at an evening news conference at a swank Makati club called by the opposition. It coincided with the announcement by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu over lunch with reporters that the military intelligence arm, Isafp, is under investigation in connection with the wiretapping allegations.

"This is a serious matter," Abu said, but he declined to say who among the Isafp staff are under investigation. "Everyone is a suspect," he said.

On Wednesday, Malacañang announced that Isafp chief Brig. Gen. Marlu Quevedo had been sacked. No explanation was made.

Looking woozy and saying he had been sleepless the last five days since the bizarre tales of the tapes emerged, Ong said he came out because he felt his life was in danger and thought he should let the people know they were robbed in the last elections. He called on Ms Arroyo to resign.

"I am calling on Susan Roces because this tape would show that her husband was cheated," Ong said, referring to the late actor Fernando Poe Jr. who lost to Ms Arroyo. Opposition politicians broadcast appeals before the news conference for supporters to mass at the Makati club, but only several hundred showed up by nightfall.

Ong waved before a packed crowd of reporters one of what he said were four "master tapes" given to him by an Isafp agent. He said the three other tapes were "in the hands of worthy brothers."

Ong said the tapes contain the wiretapped telephone conversa-

MOTHER/ A21

SAMMY Ong, former deputy director of the National Bureau of Investigation, waves what he claims to be a master tape of a purported conversation between President Macapagal-Arroyo and Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano allegedly talking about fixing the 2004 elections.

ERIK ARAZAS

US standing by GMA, says she's not at risk

By Nikko Dizon

US Charge d'Affaires Joseph Mussomeli said in a television interview yesterday the United States fully supports President Macapagal-Arroyo's government and downplayed fears of an impending coup attempt against the administration.

"We unequivocally support the duly elected government," Mussomeli told ANC. He said he also believes the controversy surrounding the alleged wiretapping of Ms Arroyo's telephone conversation purporting to show that she attempted to rig last year's elections "has been blown out of proportion."

Malacañang has said the tape had been tampered with in an opposition attempt to destabilize the government.

"There's no real risk to her administration and there should not be one," Mussomeli said, adding that the current situation is not even "fatal at all" to the current government.

However, the diplomat added that the current situation "is very serious because it distracts people from the real problem that we should be dealing with."

"The Filipino people deserve better than a steady diet of scandals," he said.

Mussomeli said he heard of the existence of the supposed wiretap in late April or early May but considered it as a "rumor." He said no one in the US Embassy ever had a copy of the tape.

"To be honest we didn't take it that seriously. We couldn't disregard it completely and we reported it back to Washington after we (assessed) it further. But again if we took every rumor and every allegation seriously, we'd have no time for anything else," he said.

Asked what the US Embassy's assessment of the tape was, Mussomeli replied: "Our assessment was that there might be an actual tape and we just told

US STANDING/ A8

Pimentel's 'resign' call premature, say GMA allies

ADMINISTRATION senators yesterday assailed Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. for demanding President Macapagal-Arroyo's resignation, but party-list representatives went a step further and urged their co-lawmakers to lay the groundwork for a "national coalition government."

Sen. Richard Gordon questioned Pimentel's motive in calling on Thursday for the resignation not only of Ms Arroyo but also of Vice President Noli de Castro. "There are certain senators who want to be president through the backdoor," he said by phone.

Senators Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Mar Roxas said Pimentel's call was "premature" because the President had not been directly accused of receiving "jueteng" bribes and other crimes.

But Representatives Teodoro Casiño of Bayan Muna and Crispin Beltran and Rafael Mariano of Anakpawis said the President was bound to step down—either voluntarily or by force—and civilian leaders should preempt the Armed Forces from setting up a junta.

Beltran said that De Castro would not be a "viable alternative" to Ms Arroyo and that even a "snap" election would not work because the people wanted "a change in the system, not just another round of musical chairs among the members of the ruling elite."

He said "anti-Arroyo forces" should work for the establishment of a national coalition government, "an ad hoc committee" composed of "anti-corruption and pro-people reform forces and groups that will coordinate on a general plan of action as to where the Philippines should go in the coming weeks."

Elsewhere, the Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment (Kalikasan-PNE) and the Manila Public School Teachers Association (MPSTA) added their voices to the call for Ms Arroyo to step down.

Speaking for the so-called United Opposition (Uno), Lito Anzures said they would take part in the "national day of mourning" prayer rally scheduled today at the Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila.

"We are in support of any motion that will put a peaceful end to all [these controver-

PIMENTEL'S/ A22

People power ouster of Arroyo not likely

By Luis V. Teodoro
Contributor

COMMENTARY

THE NEXT few days—or the unfolding 72 hours, as administration sources themselves say—may indeed decide the fate of the Arroyo administration. But its ouster through another People Power uprising seems unlikely at this point, and the political crisis may very well be resolved in its favor.

Both People Power I and II succeeded in removing presidents because of a confluence of several factors. While some of those factors already exist, some are noticeably missing—chief among them the absence of any consensus among the groups arrayed against President Macapagal-Arroyo as to how to remove her, and who or what should succeed her.

In 1986 there was no doubt as to who would replace Ferdinand Marcos. Corazon Aquino was not only Ninoy Aquino's widow as well as the probable winner in the "snap" election. She also had the moral ascendancy, the mid-

PEOPLE/ A5

10 Senate allies, 2 bishops spurn GMA

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Christian V. Esguerra

SHE SUFFERED back-to-back rebuffs at a time when she needed allies most.

First, two Roman Catholic bishops spurned President Macapagal-Arroyo's appeal to call off today's planned "national day of mourning" protests.

Then, 10 administration senators backed out of a dinner she had wanted to host for them at the Palace, sources privy to the two events told the INQUIRER.

"It shows that they [Malacañang] are now in panic. But since the senators did not go to the dinner, they will panic even more," an administration senator said.

Another senior administration senator spoke of seeing signs of a beleaguered Palace as Ms Arroyo confronted allegations left and right.

"They are now circling the wagon," the senior senator said.

Malacañang's invitation to administration senators to a dinner on Wednesday coincided with a Malacañang offer of unity to the opposition, INQUIRER sources said.

The successive setbacks followed allegations of involvement of some members of the First Family in "jueteng" payoffs and the release of an audio tape suggesting that Ms Arroyo had rigged the May 2004 presidential election.

Malacañang and the Arroyos have denied the allegations as part of an opposition plot to discredit the presidency.

The INQUIRER learned from four administration senators that Malacañang had invited all 14 majority senators to the planned dinner with Ms Arroyo. It was not known if the dinner pushed through without the 10 who backed out.

An opposition senator, on the other hand, said he got a call from a Malacañang emissary extending the President's offer for unity.

The opposition senator said he got the call last Monday, about the same time the President's political adviser, Gabriel Claudio, made the invitation to the administration senators.

The senior administration senator said one of the purposes of the Malacañang dinner was to ask the administration lawmakers to help handle the jueteng investigation that has produced allegations about payola to the President's husband, son and brother-in-law.

"The sentiment in Malacañang is that the administration senators are fence-sitting. They should play a more active role in the hearings," the senator said.

The senator said Malacañang wanted the

10 SENATE/ A20

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western sections of Northern and Central Luzon will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY ERIKA SARMIENTO, PDI RESEARCH/06/11/05

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	**Roxas**	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	**Cebu**	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	**Tacloban**	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	**Gen. Santos**	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	**Zamboanga**	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	**Cagayan de Oro**	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	**Davao**	Partly Cloudy

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'In aid of destabilization'

By Michael Lim Ubac

A LAWMAKER yesterday called on the Senate to summon suspected big-time jueteng lords who are on top of the food chain of the multi-billion peso jueteng operations.

"Where are the lords? Let's send in the lords," said Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay.

"We have a situation where those who have been dragged into the controversy await their chance to answer the charges against them, but before they do so, the committee allows a new witness to bandy about fresh allegations against new persons. If this keeps up, the number of witnesses and resource persons to be called may be far too many to fit in the Senate session hall," he said.

Pichay said the Senate joint committee investigating jueteng should allow those named as jueteng lords by Wilfredo Mayor, Richard Garcia and Sandra Cam to speak out.

Otherwise, the inquiry would be "in aid of destabilization," said Pichay, stressing that the probe had degenerated into a continuing smear campaign against the administration.

"These proceedings are supposedly in aid of legislation so that once and for all, lasting solutions can be found to prevent illegal gambling and the attendant problem of corruption. But what is now happening is that the Senate is allowing a constant parade of dubious characters and admitted criminals who are proffering hearsay and unsubstantiated evidence, against a growing number of alleged jueteng coddlers and payola recipients," he said.

Senators halt 'jueteng' probe for two weeks

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE TWO Senate committees conducting the jueteng investigation have decided to halt the probe for at least two weeks, a day after a jueteng bagwoman claim that she delivered jueteng payola to President Macapagal-Arroyo's congressmen-son and brother-in-law.

Sen. Manuel Villar, the chair of the public order committee, said the hearings are tentatively set to resume on June 24.

The postponement of the hearings immediately drew charges of a cover-up from the opposition.

Administration senators are pressing for a termination of the investigation, which has seen three jueteng witnesses testifying that the President's husband Jose Miguel "Mike," son Juan Miguel "Mikey" and brother-in-law Ignacio "Iggy" have been on the receiving end of payoffs from the illegal numbers game.

Senators Francis Pangilinan and Richard Gordon have said the investigation should be terminated.

Hurting the economy

Sen. Mar Roxas said those accused in the jueteng payola, including members of the First Family, should open their bank accounts to prove their innocence on charges of accepting bribes from jueteng lords.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye yesterday said Malacañang was for bringing the investigation to its conclusion but not dragging it indefinitely as it was hurting the economy.

The Senate can now make its recommendations, including those who should be prosecuted, Bunye told an RMN radio interview.

He said the Senate hearings were being conducted in aid of legislation, particularly to "amend and refine" existing laws.

"But to drag the hearings on...could distract and dampen investor confidence in the country," Bunye said.

He noted that the stock market and the peso took a beating the other day.

"So this would not be good for the country in the long run," he said.

Opposition Sen. Serge Osmeña said the administration was trying to cover up the involvement of the First Family in the jueteng scam.

"Not holding the hearings is like not opening the second envelope," Osmeña said.

Osmeña was referring to the Senate impeachment trial of deposed President Estrada whose allies voted against the opening of a second set of bank documents believed to contain damning evidence against him.

This led to the collapse of the impeachment trial and the second Edsa people power uprising that drove Estrada out of Malacañang.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said he accepted the majority decision but warned that terminating the hearings would outrage the public.

Information overload

Villar said his committee and that of Sen. Manuel Lapid's that are conducting the joint investigation need some time off to process the overload of information produced by the past three hearings.

He said the senators also needed to attend to engagements during the long congressional break which started yesterday.

Villar, who said the majority was not trying to suppress the investigation, said the minority senators and Archbishop Oscar Cruz who brought the three jueteng witnesses agreed to the two-week break.

Pangilinan and Gordon said it was about time the Senate investigation was terminated.

"Our economy is hurting from too much politicking...After yesterday's Senate hearing, there seems to be enough testimonies [for the committees] to make their recommendations. The hearings should now come to an end," Pangilinan said in a statement.

Pangilinan said that if evidence warranted it, the two committees can recommend the filing of charges against "against all those implicated regardless of who they are."

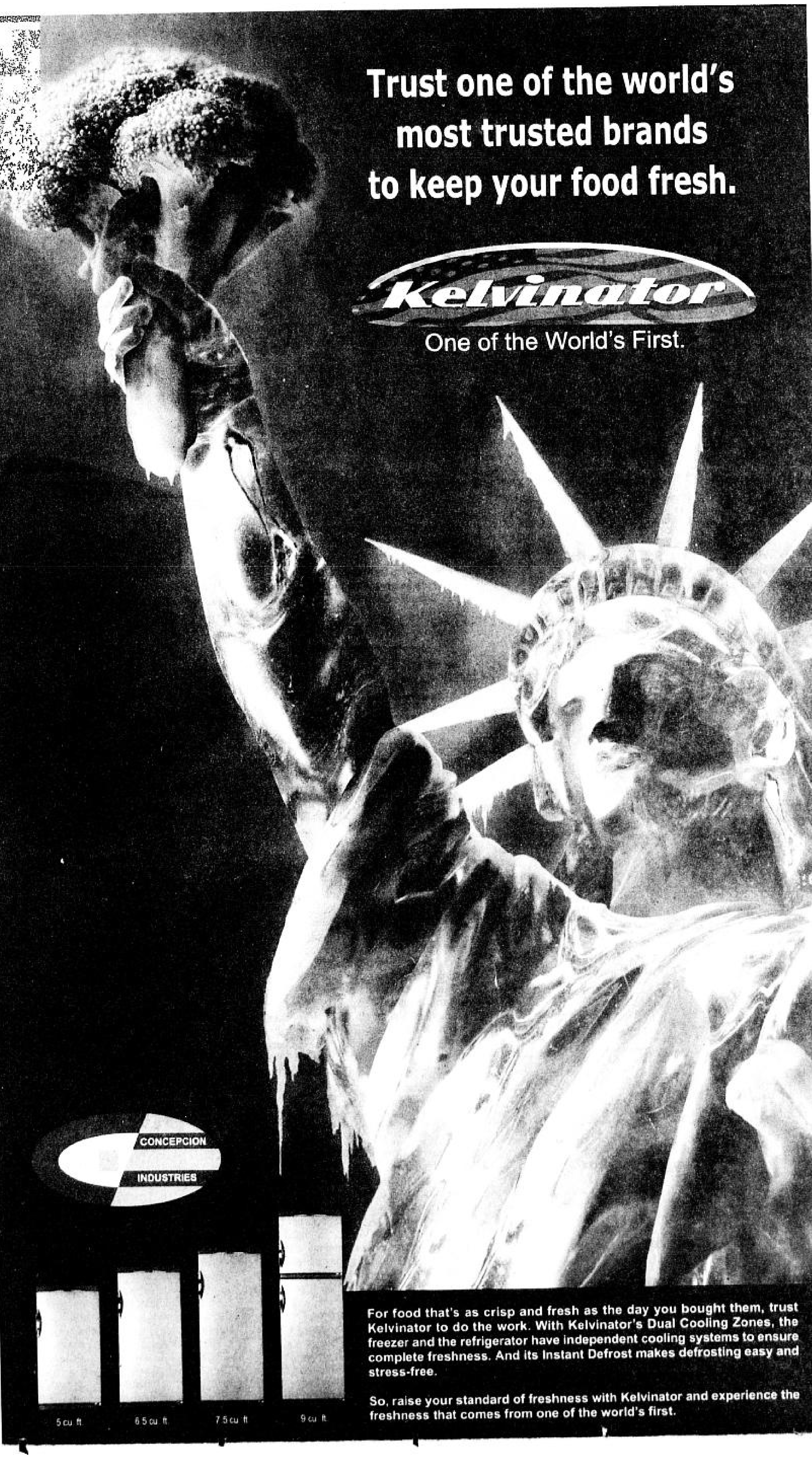
Gordon said the Senate should cease its investigation because it was not a prosecutorial arm.

"As far as I'm concerned, we should just refer this to the DOJ [Department of Justice]."

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago earlier asked for the termination of the hearings, saying the Senate does not have the jurisdiction or competence to conduct a criminal prosecution.

Roxas said that up until jueteng bagwoman Sandra Cam testified in the Senate the other day, all jueteng allegations were mere hearsay.

Cam testified that she personally handed jueteng payola money to Mikey and Iggy Arroyo.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After raising coup specter, AFP chief says it's not serious

By Dona Pazzibugan

FRESH from his confirmation by the Commission on Appointments, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu yesterday made a turnaround and downplayed the destabilization threat he spoke of earlier.

Abu said yesterday no active military officers are involved in alleged fresh recruitment attempts among the ranks to rebel against the government.

He said only the retired generals who have been critical of the Arroyo administration, led by 80-year-old former defense secretary Fortunato Abat, are on the military's watch list.

"You have been in this business for so long, you always ask me (how serious the destabilization threat is) since I became the chief of staff. *Hindi naman gaano* (It's not that serious," Abu told reporters yesterday.

"You see the same people, (retired major general Fortunato) Abat, (retired brigadier general Angel) Sadang, (retired commodore Ismael) Appari" criticizing the government, he added.

"Among the active (military officers) we are not monitoring anyone. It's not needed because there's really no threat from the active personnel because as I have said, they are following the chain of command," Abu admitted.

On Sunday, Abu disclosed that a new destabilization plot was afoot.

He issued a rare press statement saying they have intelligence reports "about continuing efforts among certain sectors to destabilize, our democratic system, discredit the political leadership, incite members of the uniformed services to engage in mutinous acts and encourage the people to withdraw their allegiance from the duly constituted government."

He spoke about a destabilization plot while Malacañang was reeling from a scandal linking members of the First Family to "jueteng."

PNP can't run after Mosqueda

By Luige A. del Puerto

POLICE can no longer run after Restituto Mosqueda, the retired police official accused of receiving millions in "jueteng" payoffs.

"It is unfortunate that these allegations came out when he is already out of service," said Philippine National Police spokesperson Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil.

"We no longer have jurisdiction over him. If he were still an officer, we could investigate and charge him administratively," he said, quoting the police's legal service.

The PNP is investigating its own men implicated in the jueteng controversy. They will be summoned to the Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management to air their side.

What the police can do now is wait for further developments, such as if Mosqueda is formally charged in court, Bataoil said.

The Anti-Money Laundering Council (Amlac) may also look into his finances in the same way that the Bureau of Internal Revenues is looking into the finances of suspected jueteng lords.

But Bataoil maintained that the so far, the allegations against Mosqueda remain to be "mere allegations."

For the meantime, the police will leave it to the Senate to investigate the retired officer, he said.

Sandra Cam, a confessed "jueteng bagwoman," had testified during the Senate inquiry into the illegal numbers game that she had collected millions for Mosqueda when he was still regional chief of the Bicol Police.

Mosqueda has denied the allegations, calling them a "brazen lie" and "a product of (Cam's) wild imagination."

Bataoil also disclosed that Mosqueda's retirement benefits are safe, for now.

Only a court order can cut his benefits, he said.

They're queer; they're here

THOM Filicia is one of America's top 100 interior designers. Kyan Douglas has been named one of People Magazine's 50 Most Beautiful People.

They're queer.

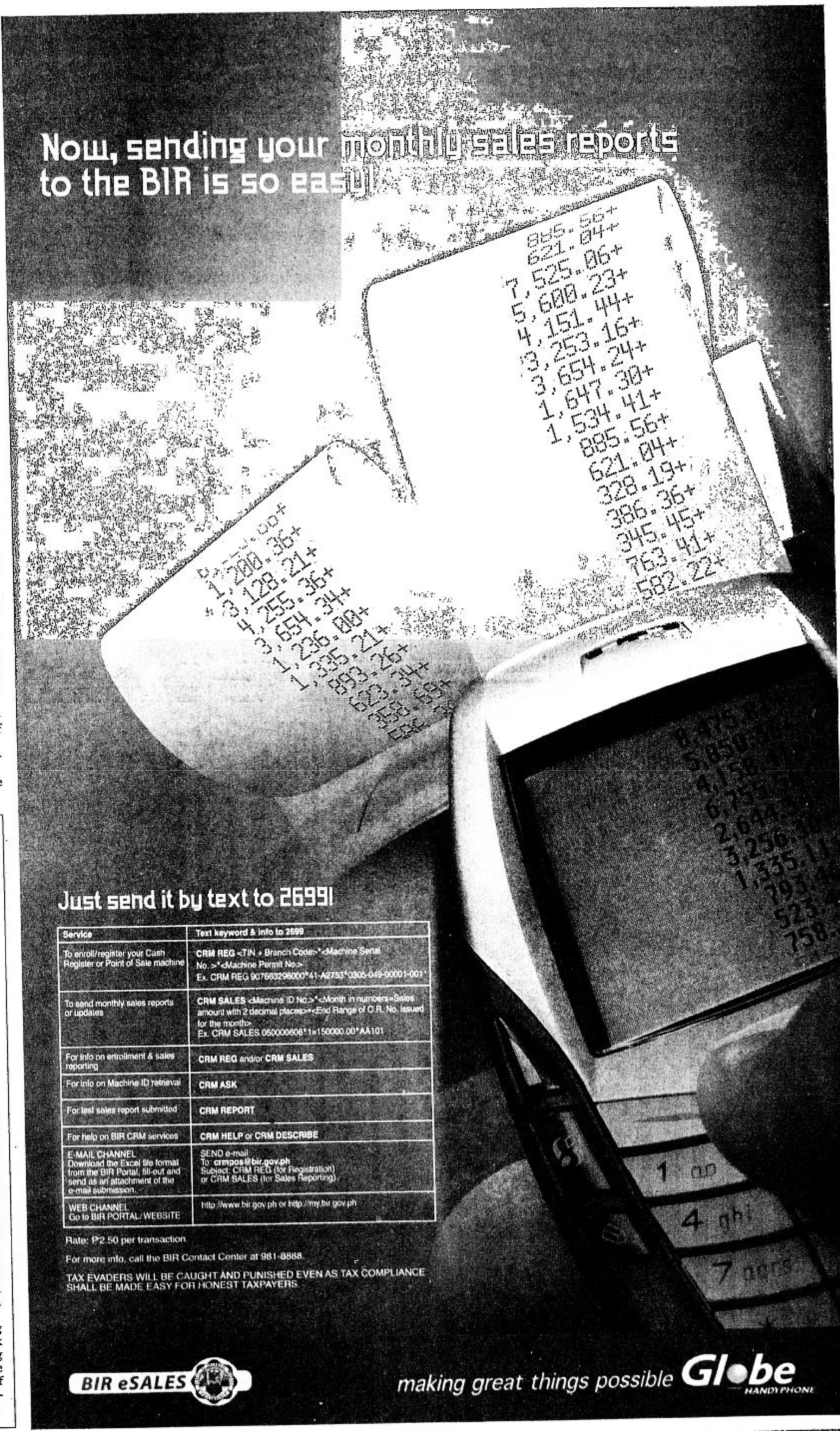
They're here.

Filicia, the design doctor, and Dougles, the grooming guru in the phenomenal Emmy Award-winning reality show "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy," arrived in Manila yesterday for a series of consultation clinics dubbed "Two Fab Malls Welcome Two Fab Guys."

The two belong to the "Fab Five," a gay quintet whose mission as captured on cable television is to straighten out one supposedly straight guy per week by holding his hand through a total transformation – a package that includes personal hygiene, grooming, behavior, home makeover, cooking, and introduction to at least one cultural pursuit.

Ayala Land Inc. and Stores Specialists Inc. are the duo's hosts. Filicia, who has done the homes of some of the world's highest-profile celebrities, will be at the Alabang Town Center today at 10 a.m. to open an exhibit of the Philippine School of Interior Design. He will then conduct a discussion on sprucing up the home.

Douglas, author of the best-selling "Beautified: Secrets for Women to Look Great and Feel Fabulous," is visiting Greenbelt 3. During the consultation, he is expected to talk about the makeover of three Filipinos that he personally directed, and give beauty and well-being tips.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Army colonel sacked for e-mail vs AFP resort in Boracay

By Dona Pazzibugan

AN ARMY colonel has been sacked as brigade commander for criticizing a controversial resort project that the military top brass is putting up in tourist island of Boracay.

Col. Ricardo Morales was relieved as commander of the 404th Infantry Brigade based in Mawab, Davao del Norte yesterday, the same day his e-mail message criticizing the project was reported in the media.

Army chief Lt. Gen. Generoso Senga recommended the relief of Morales which was immediately approved by AFP Chief Gen. Efren Abu.

"He is being relieved for his lack of good judgment and indiscretion as a senior commander. He did not set a good example to our officers and men," said Lt. Gen. Edilberto Adan, the AFP deputy chief.

"As a responsible officer, he should have been aware that such [a] message could reach the public, be misconstrued and subjected to a lot of misinterpretation," Adan said.

Morales questioned the construction of the 60-room military resort in Boracay in an e-mail to an e-mail group consisting of Philippine Military Academy graduates. Morales is a member of the PMA class of 1977.

The construction, which began shortly after Abu became AFP chief last October, is still going on.

Abu has denied involvement in the project. He said the resort project was the idea of Lt. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio, the chief of the AFP Central Command.

Teodosio said the resort was funded by donations from an NGO to give soldiers and their families a place to stay while on rest and recreation in the renowned island resort.

Morales wrote in his e-mail message: "The time has come for all good men to come to the aid of their society. The time for talking is over; the time for action is now. How can the 60-room resort in Boracay improve the AFP's capability to fight (130,000 members)? Who determined this priority? We have hospitals without medicine (remember the late Dennis Villanueva?) and they spend money for this resort?"

Lt. Col. Dennis Villanueva, a battalion commander, reportedly bled to death after being hit in a mortar attack by rebels in Patikul, Sulu last February.

Morales' message went further: "That the top leaders in the AFP, especially the Marine officer (Teodosio) who commands two Army divisions allowed this shows their insensitivity to the needs and suffering of the men in the field.

Morales was part of the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa (RAM) that rebelled against the Marcos dictatorship in 1986.

He was among the soldiers arrested by the pro-Marcos military before the first Edsa people power revolution.

Adan said Morales had owned up to writing the e-mail and had "meant what he said," but said in his own defense that it was a private communication.

But Adan said the internet was "a public domain."

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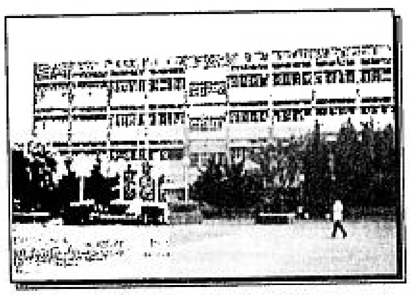

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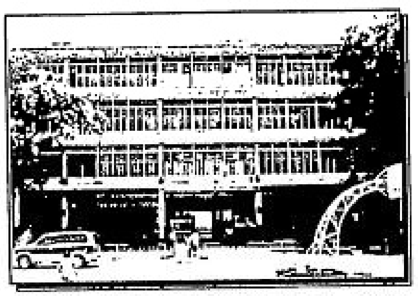

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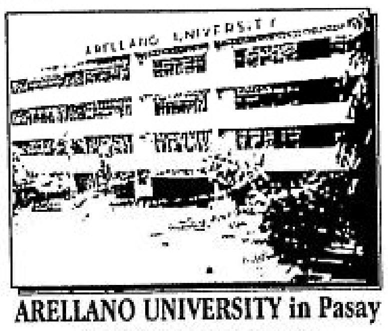

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, June 11, 2005
St. Barnabas, Apostle

1st Reading: Acts 11:21-26; 13:1-3
Gospel: Matthew 10:7-13

Jesus said to his disciples, "Go and proclaim this message: The kingdom of heaven is near. Heal the sick, bring the dead back to life, cleanse the lepers, and drive out demons. You received this as a gift, so give it as a gift. Do not carry any gold, silver or copper in your purses. Do not carry a traveler's bag, or an extra shirt, or sandals, or walking stick: workers deserve their living.

"When you come to a town or a village, look for a worthy person and stay there until you leave.

"As you enter the house, wish it peace. If the people in the house deserve it, your peace will be on them; if they do not deserve it, your blessing will come back to you."

Commentary

This is the work of the disciples of Jesus, imitating Jesus himself: Go and proclaim that the kingdom of justice for all and peace is near-heal the sick, bring the dead back to life, cleanse the lepers and drive out demons. And do this as graciously as we have known the power of God in our own lives. It appears to be impossible! The works of mercy-provide medicine and health care for all, forgive, bring hope and a future for people and their children with jobs and housing, accept the outsider, the migrant and the stranger and prisoner welcoming them into a life with others and resist and help others to resist evil, violence and injustice that is accepted as norm in so many places. And for those called to be missionaries (we all are in some small ways) travel radically free, depending on others' hospitality, open to all and bringing peace to wherever you come. Barnabas was the man who vouched for Paul and stood with him, helping him to remain constant in his conversion. We are to look not only to ourselves but to aide others as well.

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'People power fatigue' will save GMA, say analysts

By Doris C. Dumlao

RATHER than a popular revolt or coup d'etat, analysts only see a delay in the government's economic reform agenda from the barrage of allegations of election fixing and illegal gambling payoffs roiling the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Filipinos are growing tired of "people power" and now unlikely to flock to the streets to topple Ms Arroyo, analysts of the big foreign banks said yesterday.

"People power fatigue has set in and we believe it will take stronger charges than we have seen to overcome it," said Singapore-based ING analyst Tim Condon.

"The latest testimony is not as compelling as that which brought down President Estrada and does not directly tarnish the President," Condon said in his economic and policy watch commentary on the Philippines dated June 9.

In another report, Anton Periquet of Deusche Regis said the extra-constitutional avenue for a regime change was an extremely narrow one.

"Filipinos have grown tired of taking to the streets to sack their leaders only to discover time and again that their problems go beyond individual personalities," Periquet said in "The Regis Report" dated June 9.

A Senate inquiry has heard allegations that the President's husband, son and brother-in-law took kickbacks from jueteng.

This week, allegedly wiretapped recordings surfaced that the opposition said bolstered its claims the President cheated in last year's election.

The allegations have been denied by the President and her family.

Condon said until very recently it seemed the jueteng scandal would die down because of the inability of those driving the investigation to produce a star witness similar to Estrada's drinking buddy, Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson who claimed to have personally handed over dirty money to the jailed ex-President.

But even the testimony of jueteng "bagwoman" Sandra Cam that she personally handed jueteng kickbacks to the President's son and brother-in-law was less than compelling.

"At this point little is known about Ms Cam, which lessens the impact of her testimony compared with that of Singson's against President Estrada," said Condon.

PRESIDENT ARROYO

The ING analyst said three ingredients were necessary for another successful people power uprising—support from the people, military and the Church.

"The people are unlikely to back another people power, in our view. President Arroyo's poll numbers are horrible but that is not going to be enough to reduce the inertia keeping people off the streets," Condon said.

He said the two previous people power changes of government had done little to fix the problems they meant to, including corruption, poverty, falling living standards and the peace and order situation.

Condon said the Catholic Church was also unlikely to support a people power revolt as the President was a devout Catholic who had leaned heavily on Church support to take the presidency from Estrada in 2001.

"She has been careful not to clash with the Church's wishes and there is no sign of any serious rift, a few zealous priests notwithstanding," he said.

Condon also ruled out the possibility of the Army supporting a regime change, noting the top military officers were all Arroyo appointees while the junior officers were "badly burned" after the failed Oakwood mutiny of 2003 and were presumably wary of another attempt.

The ING analyst said the bottom line was: "The current political turmoil will fade unless more compelling evidence directly implicating the President is produced."

Nicholas Bibby, strategist at Barclays Capital in Singapore, believes the scandal "will blow over."

"Then we'll move on to other business. It's just one of these short-term volatility things we see, not just in the Philippines but in a lot of emerging markets," he said.

The stock market seems to think the worst could be over, rallying to finish 2.1 percent higher yesterday after falling 7.4 percent over the past three sessions amid concerns over political stability.

Still, trading was light with at least one more hurdle to clear.

The military is on red alert for any trouble over the weekend, when the country marks its independence day. Authorities have warned that unauthorized rallies will not be allowed.

The opposition likely will be looking for a way to turn the holiday mood sour.

Yesterday, about 3,000 demonstrators marched near Malacañang, waving placards that read "Gloria corrupt, resign now."

People are angry and there are grumblings in the military, which has spawned at least a dozen attempted coups since 1986.

But there is little sign yet of the united public outrage that toppled the dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986 with huge street protests and then drove out Estrada as President in 2001.

"Critical mass has not been reached and we believe the Arroyo government will continue to limp along for the time being," Manila-based risk consultancy Pacific Strategies & Assessments said in a report to clients.

The opposition has been trying to whip up public anger over the state of the economy and the allegations of corruption.

But Ms Arroyo's rivals have problems of their own with fragmented parties and few palatable alternatives as leader.

"Today's list of alternatives is particularly uninspiring. Investors should ignore the noise until further notice. Or better yet, bottom-fish (Philippine stocks) on any panic," Periquet said.

Periquet said any opposition-sponsored impeachment initiative against the President was "almost impossible" to prosper given the "feudal, personality-driven ways" of Congress.

He added that both upper and lower chambers of Congress were controlled by the administration. *With a report from Reuters*

People power ouster of GMA not likely

From page A1

dle-class constituency and the support of the king-making sectors of Philippine society, including the United States, business, and the anti-Marcos wing of the military bureaucracy.

In 2001 Ms Arroyo was not only the constitutionally designated successor of Joseph Estrada. Although she did not enjoy the same levels of enthusiasm that Corazon Aquino did, she was also acceptable to the middle class, business, and, eventually, the police and the military.

Vice President Noli de Castro, while not yet tainted by the widespread belief that Ms Arroyo cheated in the last election, is unacceptable to the middle class, the anti-Arroyo wing of the military, and much of civil society and business.

The various groups arrayed against Ms Arroyo thus have their own preferred successors, among them the civilian-military junta that the retired generals favor, the council of leaders that militant groups have proposed, and the various opposition schemes that now include returning Estrada to power and Senate President Franklin Drilon's assuming the role of a caretaker president.

Disparity of interests

The disagreement over the succession issue reflects the disparity of interests and agendas among the retired and active military officers, the various wings of the opposition, the Left, and the Catholic bishops.

But it is also the result of middle-class disappointment with People Power I and II, neither of which led to the social and political reforms both promised.

The irony is that Ms Arroyo, the beneficiary of People Power II, is now also the unintended beneficiary of widespread disappointment with People Power. Not only the failure of the groups and forces now against her to agree on the succession question is to her benefit. So is their disagreement over how to remove her.

While the People Power option remains an option for the Left and other militant groups, for example, the military favors a coup. Impeachment has been bruited about as the constitutional though far-fetched option, given the opposition's lack of numbers in the House of Representatives.

Impeachment is, in any case, a long process that may not necessarily lead to the series of events that eventually ousted Estrada in 2001.

No guarantee

But while the Arroyo administration's removal seems unlikely at this point, its surviving this crisis does not guarantee that it will serve out its term until 2010.

Disenchantment with the regime and its massive loss of credibility and popular support are realities that the surveys on Ms Arroyo's negative approval ratings have confirmed. Equally telling are the cracks within the regime's own ranks, as evidenced by the resignations of several key officials last summer, and, lately, the possibility that its own intelligence agencies may have tapped Ms Arroyo's cell phone and recorded her alleged conversation with a Commission on Elections official.

There is also the US government's previous expression of reservations over her reliability as an ally, given her decision to withdraw the Philippine humanitarian contingent from Iraq last year, and her alleged recent flirtation with China.

Although it is true that US support is not the only factor that decided the outcomes of the political crises of 1986 and 2001, it is nevertheless a crucial one. Various sectors including the military take their cue from the US Embassy, as has recently been made obvious.

The police and military support that the regime supposedly has could be as illusory as that which Marcos and Estrada enjoyed in 1986 and 2001, respectively. Police and military support is among the most unreliable in Philippine politics, and likely to melt under the pressure of various forces, among them the police and military leadership's perceptions of who can best guarantee their interests.

Worst crisis

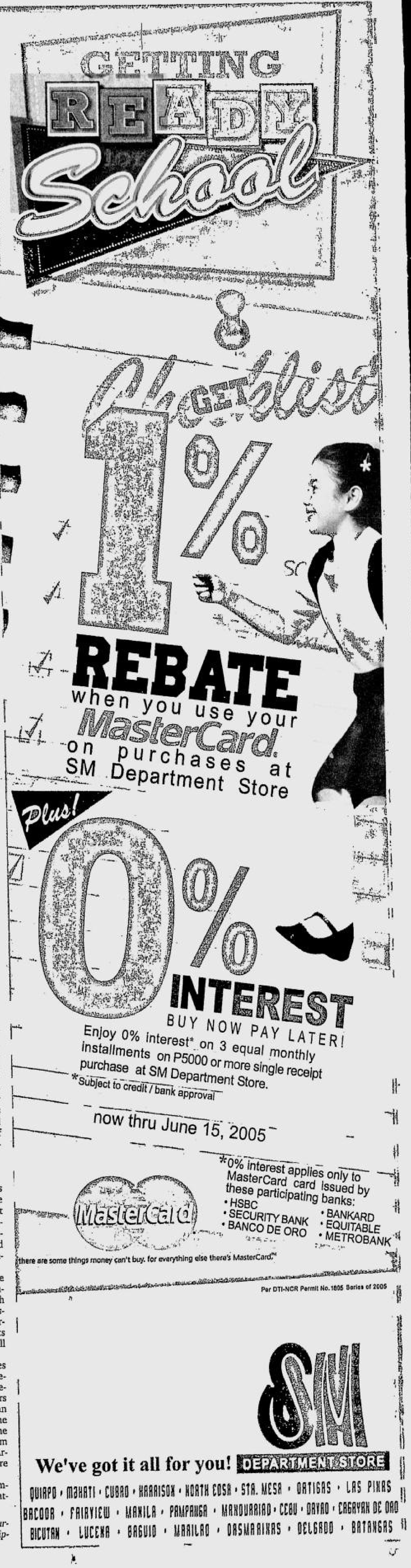
It is true that the present crisis is the worst that has ever afflicted the Arroyo administration since 2001. It is in fact the worst crisis any administration since Marcos' has ever experienced. But it may not necessarily lead to the current administration's removal.

Given, however, the current state of its credibility and support, its incorrigible incapacity to achieve much of anything, its increasingly oppressive character, and the runaway corruption metastasizing within it, its surmounting the present crisis will not mean stability until 2010.

The likelihood is that, as its failures accumulate and as its legitimacy remains doubtful at best, it will be besieged by crisis after crisis in the years to come. Any one of those crises can lead to its ouster, assuming that the points of differences among the groups opposed to it—among them the question of how to remove Ms Arroyo and who will succeed her—are resolved.

This is an administration so damaged that its ouster can only be a matter of time.

Luis V. Teodoro is a professor of journalism at the University of the Philippines.



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Foreign tourists worry about safety in RP, says tourism exec

By Jerome Aning

FOREIGN tourists are worried about their safety in this crisis-wracked country, according to Philippine Tourism Authority general manager Robert Dean Barbers.

He said a number of them had been phoning his office to ask if it was safe for them to visit, and warned that the recovering tourism industry might suffer yet another setback if the political turmoil over the "jueteng" and wiretapping scandals would continue.

"There is too much politics going on right now and it is not doing the country any good," Barbers said. "It would be better if we rally behind this administration on the significant growth in our economy instead of bringing down the government for certain political gains."

Barbers said Robert Joseph Lim, chair of the National Association of Independent Travel Agencies, had also relayed to him the reluctance of foreigners to travel to the country in the light of the current turmoil.

He lamented the negative impact of such worries on the government's economic program.

He said that instead of being united "to focus on poverty alleviation and improving the economy," the nation had become "a venue for political circus acts."

Barbers warned that the substantial achievements in tourism brought about by efforts to promote the Philippines in the Asean region, Japan, China, United States and some European countries would "dissipate" if "unfounded accusations" against the administration continued to be "sensationalized."

"Let us put these issues in proper perspective and bring them to the proper authorities. These allegations must not be used by certain sectors through trial by publicity for their own political gains," he said.

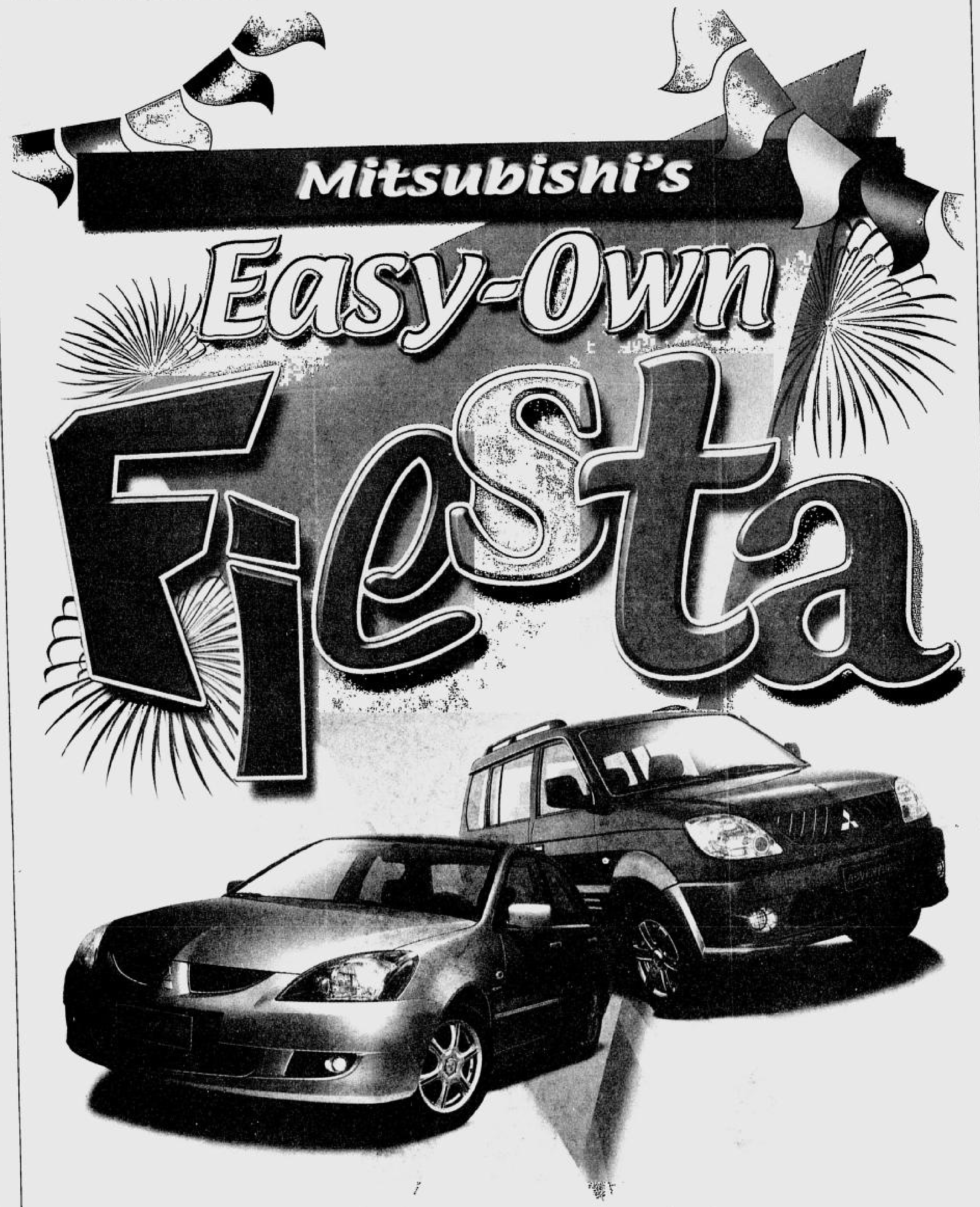
Barbers cited reports in the business sector saying that the Arroyo administration's being buffeted by one political controversy after another had caused reluctance among foreign investors to put in the much needed financial boost to the economy.

15 hurt in flight to HK

HONG KONG—Fifteen people were hurt after a Cathay Pacific plane hit strong turbulence on its way to Hong Kong from Manila, the airline said on Friday.

The injured, including seven crew members and eight passengers, suffered scratches and bruises, and were taken to hospital for treatment.

The plane, carrying 352 passengers, landed safely in Hong Kong just after noon. AFP



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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Peso tumbles to 55.20 to the dollar

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO yesterday tumbled to 55.20 to $1, its lowest finish in four months, on concerns that corruption allegations against President Macapagal-Arroyo were undermining her administration.

The currency closed 54.95 to the dollar on Thursday. Trading volume at the Philippine Dealing System yesterday remained high at $435.35 million.

"The markets don't like uncertainty," said Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Officer in Charge Amando Tetangco Jr.

"The earlier the noise dissipates, the better for us because only then can the market focus again on economic fundamentals," he added.

The peso has been steadily gaining against the US dollar since the start of the year , hitting a high of 53.94 to $1 on March 16, on the back of strong portfolio inflows.

The financial markets, however, turned jittery due to political uncertainties arising from allegations that Ms Arroyo had rigged the presidential elections last year to secure a six-year term and that her husband, eldest son and brother-in-law had been accepting payoffs from "jueteng" operators.

"Domestic political jitters continue to take the spotlight," said Rovic de Guzman, head of trading at the Union Bank of the Philippines. "Everyone's attention is focused on how it unfolds and whether it will be resolved soon. It's a tough call."

De Guzman said the pressure on the peso could further increase as the season for remittances from overseas Filipinos was coming to an end.

The uncertainty dampened the momentum that allowed the peso to appreciate to the 53-54 to $1 levels in the past months, BSP officials said.

"We were doing quite well in terms of growth, external flows, level of GIR (gross international reserves), foreign investments and OFW remittances. Also, the markets received positively the tax reform measures instituted by the government," Tetangco said.

The BSP said it was watching the foreign exchange movement. It said it continued to aim to minimize volatility in the foreign exchange market, but declined to confirm whether it had intervened to support the peso in recent days.

"As in the past, the policy of the BSP is basically designed to minimize as much as possible the volatility, but we don't go against fundamentals," Tetangco told reporters.

Political tensions, Tetangco said, had been aggravating the pressure caused on the peso by the strengthening of the US dollar against regional currencies. He was, however, quick to add that there was no speculative attack against the peso.

After hitting a low of 55.33 to $1 on Jan. 26, the peso started appreciating, hitting the 54 to $1 level for the first time since October 2003 on a string of favorable news, including a record gross domestic product growth for 2004 and the country's retention in the list of permissible investment sites of California Public Employees Retirement System. It breached the 53 to $1 mark in March.

In the meantime, foreign portfolio investments inflows, which fueled the peso's appreciation since the start of the year, started to dwindle after peaking in March.

BSP data released yesterday indicated that the net inflows of "hot" money for the month of May reached $98.7 million, the lowest monthly portfolio investments inflow so far this year.

The net inflows last month paled in comparison with the inflows of $543.5 million in January, $334.7 million in February, $562.1 million in March and $279.8 million in April.

For the week ending May 27, Tetangco said there was a net inflow of $11.6 million, sustaining the $13.7 million inflows in the previous week. *With a report from Reuters*

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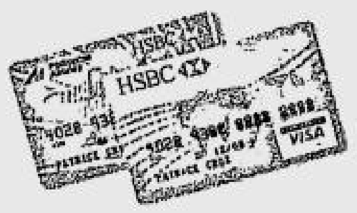

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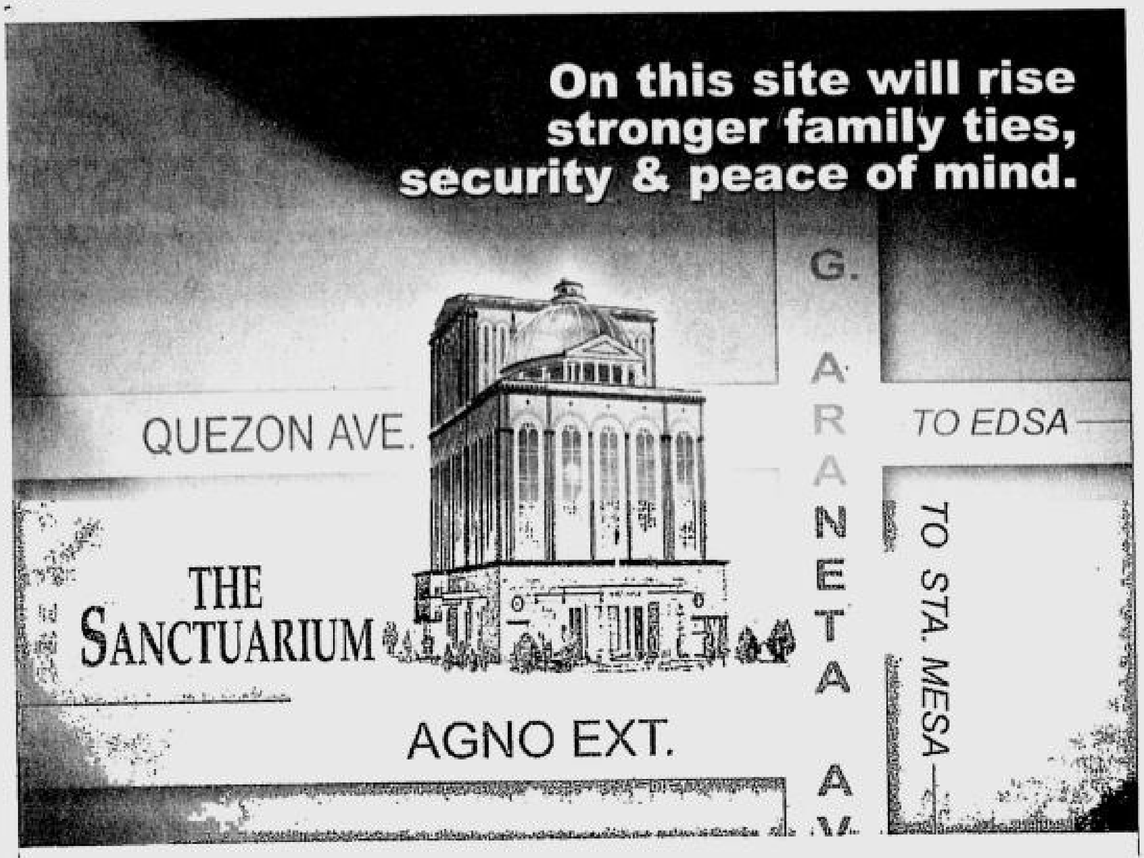
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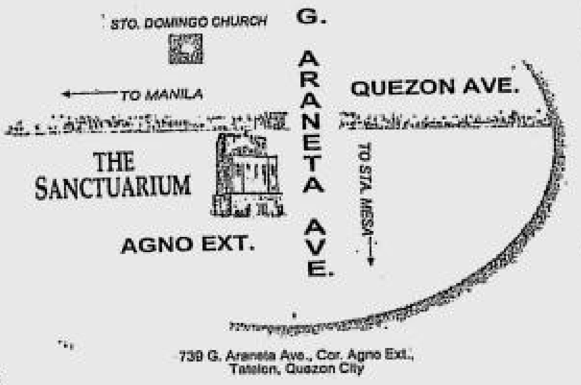

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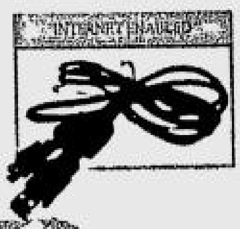

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GMA rallies forces, hits 'marauders of democracy'

By Christine O. Avendaño

EMBATTLED President Macapagal-Arroyo vowed to defeat "the marauders of democracy" as she tried to rally her political forces amid scandals buffeting her administration.

"All of us declared our support for [the President]," Speaker Jose de Venecia told reporters after Ms Arroyo met Lakas leaders and members over dinner at Malacañang. "We are against any extra-constitutional or extra-legal moves to bring down the duly elected government ... We do not wish to become a banana republic."

Ms Arroyo is chair of Lakas, the country's biggest party which represents 50 percent of all elected officials.

De Venecia accused unnamed "destabilizers" of "creating a full-blown political crisis."

But Lakas leaders and members told Ms Arroyo at the dinner that "we will not allow this to happen and that we will support [her] all the way," De Venecia said.

The Speaker also stressed that Lakas was on alert.

"We are obviously mobilizing our forces. We are telling everybody to be on the alert, to be vigilant," he said. "We are telling our neighbors, our friends, allies, our colleagues that we have a duly constituted democracy that is being buffeted by so many abnormal storms that are created by the forces of destabilization."

Foreign support

He added: "You never know. It's better to be vigilant."

De Venecia said the meeting noted what he called "the support for the duly constituted authority" which he said had been expressed by the US and Chinese embassies, as well as by diplomats from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) and the European Union.

"She [Ms Arroyo] was in a very high spirit. I thought we were facing a demoralized crowd but the crowd was so strong," De Venecia said.

Civil disobedience

Asked about a campaign of civil disobedience supposedly being planned by Ms Arroyo's opponents, the Speaker said: "I think it will not succeed."

"I think the campaign of the destabilizers will just fizzle out ... It will die a natural death."

Lakas member Antique Vice Gov. Rhodora Cadiao told reporters that the President told them to be "stronger because we're the majority party."

Cadiao said that Ms Arroyo also said that what was happening now was a result of her being able to complete the first phase of her economic reforms.

It was Lakas leaders who sought the meeting with Ms Arroyo, said Gabriel Claudio, presidential adviser for political affairs.

The dinner was held four days after the Chief Executive met with leaders and members of the Liberal Party, also in Malacañang.

Lakas represents 50 percent of all elected officials across the nation, including 40 governors, 80 congressmen, 60 city mayors and 750 municipal mayors.

Noli unfit for top post, House leader says

By Michael Lim Ubac

DE CASTRO

VICE President Noli de Castro is an unfit replacement for President Macapagal-Arroyo should she resign, according to the administration coalition in the House.

"The majority will stick with the President because there is no [other] viable option," House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said yesterday. He said the consensus of the majority was that no one—not even De Castro, Ms Arroyo's constitutional successor—was an "acceptable" alternative.

"Who will take over [the government]? Who is the acceptable man or woman or military man? Archbishop [Oscar] Cruz, can he take over? Who? Let's forget the Constitution and due process—who do you think?" Nograles told the ANC news channel.

He warned that the country would "self-destruct" if an unqualified person wrested power from Ms Arroyo.

"The majority in the House will not allow an armed revolution and will insist that Gloria stay and not resign. I'm echoing exactly what the majority members of the House are saying," he said.

The lawmaker from Davao said the administration coalition—which groups 208 of the 236-member chamber—would not back a military junta either because it would mean surrendering civilian authority to the generals.

"We will not have a role anymore," he said, pointing out that any junta or dictator would have Congress padlocked "so that there will be no checks and balances."

As to the threat of another People Power revolt to topple the Arroyo administration, Nograles said the Edsa uprisings only represented "Imperial Manila," and not the whole country.

"Just because mayors in Metro Manila mobilized their forces and went to Edsa, they think [they can] rule the entire Philippines, never mind what Mindanao, Cebu, or Bohol think," he said. "We will not allow that ... We might as well [secede]. Anyway, [Mindanao has] the resources."

US standing by GMA, says she's not at risk

From page A1

Washington to stay tuned and we'll let them know if things would develop. And then things have developed."

Asked about widespread media speculation that the US Embassy was the source of the tapes circulating in Manila and that they were released to show Washington was distancing itself from the Arroyo administration, Mussomeli said:

"When you think about it logically, it makes no sense at all. The one thing that the US government wants is stability and this is something that does not help that at all ... In this case really, we have no connection with this at all.

"I think those who are perpetrating this are brain-dead. It's against anything we want here. We want the rule of law, we want stability and this doesn't help. I really don't think it's an issue anymore. I don't believe people think the Americans are involved. Anyone who stops to think for 30 seconds realizes that," he said.

Romulo welcomes US support

Nevertheless, Mussomeli said should the Philippine government request US assistance in determining the authenticity of the tape, the US Embassy would consider recommending it to Washington.

Foreign Secretary Alberto G. Romulo welcomed the US Embassy official's statement of support and its desire for stability in the country. In a statement, Romulo noted that the US sent more than 100 observers during the May 2004 elections and found that the balloting was "fair and credible."

"My recent meetings with members of the diplomatic corps in the Philippines strongly indicate the continuing support and recognition of the international community for the administration," Romulo said.

Two administration lawmakers also welcomed Mussomeli's statement.

"The clear and unequivocal support by a top US Embassy official should spell the death-knell for this particular chapter of the ongoing destabilization efforts by the opposition," Rep. Edwin Uy said. "This is timely and significant in light of the opposition's rehashed poll fraud charges against the President," he added.

Uy said his sources from the diplomatic community had informed him that opposition figures had tried to get the support of some foreign governments for the ouster of Ms Arroyo but these were "rebuffed resoundingly."

Rep. Gerry Salapuddin said Mussomeli's statement "should help enlighten" the public about the opposition's "bogus claims" of election fraud. *With a report from Philip C. Tubeza*

JV'S SCENARIO

If GMA is out, why not Erap?

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

IF PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo steps down, jailed former President Joseph Estrada can take over and establish a "caretaker government."

This is the "ideal scenario" according to Estrada's son San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, saying his father, whom Ms Arroyo replaced in 2001, is the only leader "with the clearest mandate until now."

"(Estrada) could have a council of prominent political leaders [and] establish a caretaker government in the meantime," Ejercito said in a phone interview.

He said his father could unite the country by inviting to the council "influential leaders" like evangelist Eddie Villanueva and opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who both lost to Ms Arroyo in the 2004 elections.

He said Estrada could also invite Susan Roces, the widow of Ms Arroyo's closest rival in last year's elections, the late actor Fernando Poe Jr.

"Based on surveys, the people have trust and confidence in my father even if he is in jail," Ejercito said.

He said the United National Opposition, composed of allies and supporters of both Poe and Estrada, was also prepared "for any eventualities."

Later last night, the ousted president issued a statement urging the people "to spurn Gloria Arroyo and her regime through a massive civil disobedience move."

"We the Filipino people cannot be ruled by a proven cheating president," he said. "We the Filipino people, who have the God-given right to choose our leaders freely, cannot allow a cheat for a president."

In an earlier statement, Ejercito joined calls for Ms Arroyo to step down, following the controversies hounding Malacañang.

"With the current political and economic crisis coupled with the scandals rocking the administration, (Ms Arroyo) should now consider stepping down out of delicadeza," Ejercito said in a statement.

Opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. had earlier proposed that Ms Arroyo and Vice President Noli de Castro step down to give way for a snap election.

Ms Arroyo, who was then vice president, took over after Estrada was ousted in 2001 during Edsa 2, a few months after he was impeached for allegations linking him to *jueteng*, and other charges like plunder and unexplained wealth.

But this time, the latest jueteng scandal has dragged the names of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, his son, Pampanga Rep. Mikey Arroyo and his brother Rep. Iggy Arroyo.

Several days ago, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye also released two tapes containing what he said was a wiretapped phone call of Ms Arroyo—one he claimed to be the original, the other, a spliced version.

He warned that the fabricated version was to be used by some segments of the opposition to support allegations that Ms Arroyo cheated during the elections.

But Ejercito said both versions proved that the camp of Ms Arroyo had a "special operation" to ensure her win in the last elections.

"The content confirms speculations that there was massive cheating, that (Ms Arroyo) wanted to stay in power at all costs," he added.

The Philippine National Police confirmed they had monitored destabilization efforts against the administration.

But Ejercito said there was no need to destabilize the Arroyo government.

FVR calls for unity, sobriety

IN A RECENT visit, Fidel Ramos calls on President Macapagal-Arroyo and reiterates his support for her administration. With them are Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and Presidential Political Adviser Gabriel Claudio.

AMID rumors of unrest in the face of the scandals engulfing President Macapagal-Arroyo and her family, former President Fidel Ramos yesterday called for unity and sobriety.

"We've gone through more difficult crises than this one now, so let us not panic. Instead let's stay together. Let's stay united," said the former President, who was interviewed the day *jueteng* bagwoman Sandra Cam alleged in a Senate inquiry that she personally delivered jueteng kickbacks to the Ms Arroyo's son and brother-in-law.

"We are doing a disservice to our people by talking so much about all these negative things," Ramos said in a chance interview at a diplomatic function Thursday night, during which he shared the presidential table with Ms Arroyo.

The two were at a Manila Hotel dinner to mark the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the Philippines and China.

"What is necessary is that we keep united," Ramos said, speaking in a mixture of Filipino and English.

"Let us fix the only ship we're on, which is the Republic of the Philippines," he said.

"We should be plugging the holes of our ship because we're all on board. The problems with some of us is that they keep making new holes. That's not the way to progress in this world," he said.

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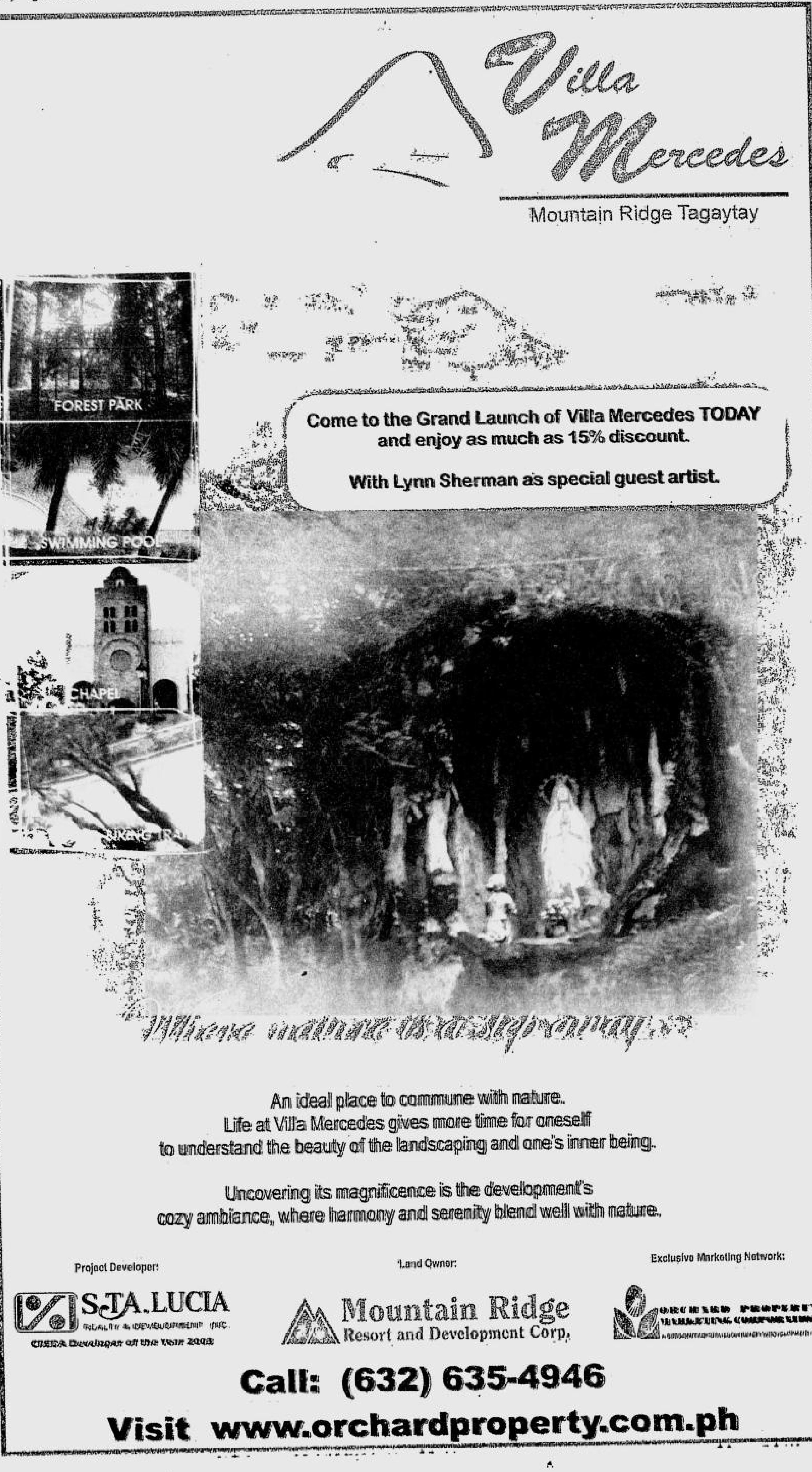

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

New Bolivia president calls early polls

SUCRE, Bolivia—Bolivia's supreme court chief, Eduardo Rodriguez, took over as president and called Friday for general elections to try to defuse weeks of turmoil and violent protests in which a miner was shot dead.

Rodriguez, 49, was sworn in as the 84th president at an emergency session of Congress late Thursday. Lawmakers unanimously accepted the resignation of his predecessor, Carlos Mesa, who had offered Monday to step down two years early for failing to quell the troubles.

Lawmakers were forced to cancel a crisis session in the morning, citing a "lack of guarantees" as demonstrators and security forces clashed in the streets of the colonial capital Sucre and a miners' union leader was shot dead in a small town nearby.

But they met again in the evening to install the new president.

For three weeks, tens of thousands of farmers, workers and indigenous people have clamored on the streets of La Paz and other cities for the nationalization of the gas and oil industry and a more equitable distribution of the country's meager wealth.

Protesters also had demanded the former president quit.

Bolivia's armed forces warned they would take action to halt the unrest, which had led the national airline to cancel all domestic flights.

The armed forces chief warned the turmoil could become a "national suicide. We are appealing for calm on the part of all parties... and respect for the constitution," said Admiral Luis Aranda, reading a military statement.

In his inauguration speech, shortly after midnight, the new president promised to lead the way to elections. "One of my functions will be to convene that electoral process to renew the representatives of the people," he said.

He did not set a date for the polls, but the constitution stipulates that under current circumstances new elections must be held within six months.

Senate leader Hormanda Vaca Diez, who swore in Rodriguez, could have served out the rest of the former president's term under the constitution. But he turned down the job in favor of the supreme court chief, who was the only official allowed to call early polls.

House of Deputies president Mario Cossio, the next in line after Diez, did the same.

Immediately after the new president's speech, Evo Morales, a leftist lawmaker, leader of coca leaf farmers and one of the most influential protest leaders, urged Rodriguez to promise to nationalize the oil and gas industry and to convene a constitutional assembly. *AFP*

Terrorists plan to attack Indonesia in advanced stages, Australia says

CANBERRA—Terrorists are in the "very advanced stages" of planning attacks in Indonesia, Australia warned on Friday.

"We continue to receive a stream of credible reporting suggesting that terrorists are in the very advanced stages of planning attacks in Indonesia," the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs said.

"Attacks could occur at any time, anywhere in Indonesia and could be directed at any locations known to be frequented by foreigners."

Indonesian officials expressed puzzlement at the latest warning and said they had received no new information recently.

The police have said repeatedly in recent weeks that a group allegedly led by two key members of the al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah plans to strike Western-linked targets.

"I don't know precisely whether this is a follow-up to previous indications or whether this comes from new facts," police chief Gen. Da'i Bachtiar told reporters. "We ourselves have not received any."

The warning was posted on the Australian government's travel website, www.smartraveller.gov.au.

"Recent credible reporting suggests that international hotels frequented by Westerners in Jakarta are being targeted in current terrorist planning," the department warning said.

A car bomb exploded outside the Australian Embassy in Jakarta on Sept. 9, 2004, killing 10 Indonesians and wounding more than 200 people, while 88 Australians were among the 202 killed in the Bali nightclub bombings in October 2002.

Indonesian police have said the two Jemaah Islamiyah fugitives might be staying around Jakarta and recruiting followers for their next operation.

The British Embassy in Indonesia, on its website, has also advised nationals that "terrorists in Indonesia are planning further attacks on Westerners and Western interests." *Reuters*

TEHRAN'S telecommunications tower, currently under construction, is seen at sunset June 9. The United States on Thursday dropped its objections to a third term for the head of the UN nuclear watchdog, Mohamed ElBaradei, and said it would vote for him in an upcoming election. The decision ended a solitary US campaign against ElBaradei, who is running unopposed for reelection and has widespread international support despite the belief of Bush administration hard-liners that he has been too soft on Iran.

REUTERS

US abandons bid to block third term for IAEA chief

WASHINGTON—Washington on Thursday ended its opposition to Mohamed ElBaradei serving a third term as the head of the UN nuclear watchdog in a climbdown that will allow the Egyptian lawyer to be re-elected next week.

The decision ended a solitary US campaign against ElBaradei, who has widespread international support despite the belief of Bush administration hardliners that he has been too soft on Iran over suspicions it is pursuing a nuclear bomb.

"We expect, when the vote comes up... that we will join the consensus," state department spokesperson Sean McCormack told reporters after Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice met ElBaradei in Washington.

ElBaradei, who has run the International Atomic Energy Agency since 1997, is now likely to be unanimously approved by the 35 member-nations at a board meeting that starts on Monday.

Washington officially opposed ElBaradei by citing its long-held view that heads of UN agencies should serve no more than two terms.

US officials acknowledged Washington reversed its position because it had been unable to erode support for ElBaradei who had also clashed with the United States because he refused to accept its assertions over Iraq's programs.

Faced with the reality that there was no viable alternative candidate, the Bush administration opted to back ElBaradei—but on the condition he got tougher on Iran, they said.

"You've got to work with what you've got," a state department official, who asked not to be named, said.

When ElBaradei issues periodic assessments of Iran's programs, US hardliners want him to emphasize suspicions over Iranian activity instead of his practice of stressing a lack of proof Tehran is pursuing the bomb, another US official said.

During its two-year-old investigation, the IAEA has found no proof Tehran is developing nuclear weapons. But it has found many potentially weapons-related activities that Iran concealed from the United Nations for nearly two decades.

The United States is supporting European negotiations with Iran to curb its nuclear activities but it wants the IAEA to report the Islamic republic to the UN Security Council for possible sanctions should the talks fail.

Iran says its program is peaceful.

Before winning US support, ElBaradei gave a nod to aiding the United States in its campaign to persuade skeptical nations Iran is building an atomic bomb under the cover of a nuclear power program. *Reuters*

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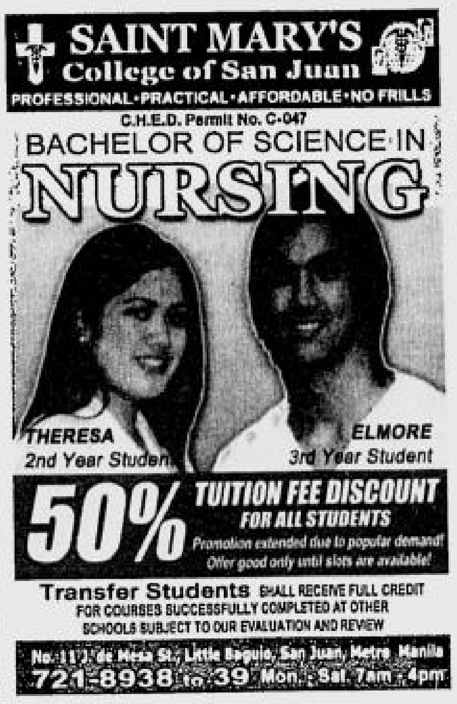

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German court orders acquittal of 9/11 suspect

KARLSRUHE, Germany—Germany's federal appeal court on Thursday ordered the acquittal of a Moroccan student, Abdelghani Mzoudi, who was accused of involvement in the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

In 2003, Mzoudi was only the second person to be tried anywhere in the world over the suicide plane attacks, but the prosecution case collapsed.

The appeals court rejected an appeal from federal prosecutors for a new trial, citing a lack of evidence.

The court therefore confirmed the judgement of the Hamburg appeals court which acquitted Mzoudi in February 2004, .two months after he had been allowed to walk free.

But after Thursday's verdict, the interior ministry of Hamburg announced that it was going ahead with proceedings to expel Mzoudi from Germany and gave him 14 days to leave the country, although he can appeal against this decision.

Hamburg, a northern port city, was one of the planning nerve centers of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon which killed around 3,000 people.

Prosecutors had claimed Mzoudi was part of the 'Hamburg cell' run by the presumed leader of the suicide pilots, Mohammed Atta, and called for him to receive a 15-year jail sentence.

Another Moroccan, Mounir El Motassadeq, is currently in the middle of a retrial on charges of assisting the attackers which is being held in Hamburg.

Motassadeq denies having any knowledge of the planning for the attacks.

In 2004, Mzoudi was cleared of charges of accessory to murder on more than 3,000 counts and membership of a terrorist organization.

Guel Pinar, Mzoudi's chief defense lawyer said on that occasion that her client wanted to resume his studies in electronics that were interrupted when he was arrested in October 2002.

However, Mzoudi was subsequently barred from studying in Germany because he did not have permanent residency status.

His acquittal in 2004 came after the court ordered his release from custody in December following fresh claims—believed to come from Ramzi Binalshibh, an alleged al-Qaida operative now in US custody—exonerating Mzoudi.

Motassadeq was the first person worldwide to face court for alleged involvement in the attacks.

He was found guilty in a first trial but the verdict was overturned because US authorities had refused to allow key witnesses in their custody to testify. *AFP*

Rumsfeld makes 2 turnarounds in one week

WASHINGTON—Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld was publicly out of synch with members of US President George W. Bush's administration twice this week, marking rare aberrations for one of the Cabinet's best at voicing the party line.

On Wednesday, Rumsfeld told reporters in Norway that he hadn't heard anyone in the executive branch discuss the possibility of closing the US prison camp for terrorism suspects at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Less than a day later, Bush said he wouldn't rule out closing the prison.

On Sunday, a top Pentagon official traveling with Rumsfeld in Singapore told reporters the Bush administration was considering taking the issue of North Korea's nuclear weapons program before the United Nations. The next day, Rumsfeld said reports of the official's comments were "inaccurate and mischievous."

The incidents show the difficulties of coordinating a White House message with Cabinet officials halfway around the world. Both times the message on a sensitive international issue shifted during the day in Washington, while Rumsfeld's delegation was sleeping thousands of kilometers away.

Rumsfeld has been in similar predicaments before. In the run-up to the Iraq war, he ruffled feathers when he referred to Germany and France as "old Europe" at a time when the Bush administration was trying to build a broad coalition for the eventual invasion.

And last year he created a stir when, during a visit with troops in Iraq, he appeared indifferent to a soldier's concern that US military vehicle armor was inadequate.

"You go to war with the Army you have, not the Army you might want or wish to have," Rumsfeld told a town hall-type meeting of soldiers. The next day Bush weighed in, saying the troops' concerns were being fully addressed.

"If I were a soldier overseas wanting to defend my country, I'd want to ask the secretary of defense the same question," Bush said. "And that is, 'Are we getting the best we can get us?' And they deserve the best."

The dustup this week over Guantanamo Bay started when a Norwegian reporter asked Rumsfeld about calls by former US President Jimmy Carter and other critics to close the Guantanamo Bay prison camp. Rumsfeld, who had condemned a human rights group's calls to close the prison last week, answered that he knew of no one in the Bush administration who was considering shutting down the facility.

Then Bush, in an interview with Fox News Channel, implied that closing Guantanamo was one option he might consider. *AP*

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China poses growing intelligence threat US ill-equipped to combat

By David Morgan

WASHINGTON—China, whose surging growth feeds an incessant appetite for US technology, poses a growing intelligence threat that the United States may be ill-equipped to combat, current and former US officials say.

With the Bush administration embroiled in Iraq and the war on terrorism, intelligence experts fear it may be ignoring a determined Chinese strategy to acquire sensitive technology with commercial and military applications through informal spy networks with potentially thousands of operatives.

Such efforts could eventually erode US economic and military prominence, officials and analysts said.

The FBI lack resources to cope, they said. Also, US corporations face business pressure to transfer key research and development facilities into China in exchange for promised access to its massive domestic market.

Some US companies, which have been fined over the practice, have even struck illicit deals providing China with technology to upgrade its missile systems.

"I would say that we are not paying... adequate attention to (China), because we have been so diverted by the issues of the war on terrorism," John Gannon, former chair of the National Intelligence Council, said at a forum this week.

Chinese officials deny suggestions of spying. "The allegation of China's threat is totally groundless," said Chu Maoming, spokesperson for the Chinese Embassy in Washington.

Spies from about 100 countries sought sensitive US technology last year, according to a report by the Office of the National Counterintelligence Executive.

The most determined efforts came from only a handful of nations, including China, Russia, France, Iran, North Korea and Cuba, counterintelligence officials said.

China is viewed as the most serious threat, they said. It needs foreign technology to maintain robust economic growth that attracts overseas investment and creates jobs for a vast population still beset by poverty and unemployment, analysts said.

As a result, they said, China has adopted a variety acquisition methods including licensing, theft, cooperation and espionage—some legal and some illegal.

China has about 3,000 "front" companies in the United States that exist mainly to obtain sensitive US technology, according to government estimates cited by experts.

Some 300,000 Chinese citizens and 15,000 Chinese delegations visit the United States annually. An estimated 150,000 Chinese students are at US universities; many are destined for jobs at high-tech US firms or national research facilities.

The Chinese government assumes such individuals "will be intelligence collectors. And many are," said I.C. Smith, a former US counterintelligence official.

A main strategy is for people to collect small pieces of intelligence that can be assembled into a useful intelligence picture, counterintelligence officials said.

Current and former officials expressed doubts about the US ability to deal with China's intelligence efforts, especially as it is embroiled in Iraq and the war on terrorism.

The FBI scaled back its China program sharply after the Cold War ended a decade ago, and still appears to lack resources, despite a subsequent buildup.

"The fact is they need appropriate resources to deal with this, and privately they've said they're severely understaffed," said Peter Brookes, a former Pentagon official now at the Heritage Foundation.

FBI credibility has also suffered from lapses including the bungled investigation of Wen Ho Lee, the former Los Alamos Nuclear Laboratory physicist accused of spying for China until the allegations collapsed for lack of evidence. *Reuters*

Italian kidnapped in Afghanistan released

KABUL—An Italian aid worker kidnapped in Afghanistan has been released and is in good health after 24 days in captivity, government officials from both countries said on Thursday.

Clementina Cantoni, 32, was kidnapped by four gunmen on a Kabul street on May 16. Her abduction mobilized protesters in Afghanistan and Italy amid contradicting reports about her fate, including rumors that she had been killed.

"I am pleased to announce that this evening we were able to free Clementina Cantoni who was taken hostage 24 days ago by a criminal gang in Kabul," Afghan Interior Minister Ali Ahmad Jalali told a news conference.

CANTONI in undated image

Cantoni, who works for the Care International aid agency, was in good condition and had been in touch with her family, he said.

"It's an enormous relief," Italian Foreign Minister Gianfranco Fini told reporters in Luxembourg.

The kidnapping was another blow for the US-backed government of President Hamid Karzai as it struggles to impose authority while battling Taliban insurgents and a wave of crime.

It raised fresh fears of Iraq-style kidnappings by anti-government insurgents or criminals. Cantoni appeared in a videotape on May 29 looking tense and flanked by two men pointing rifles at her.

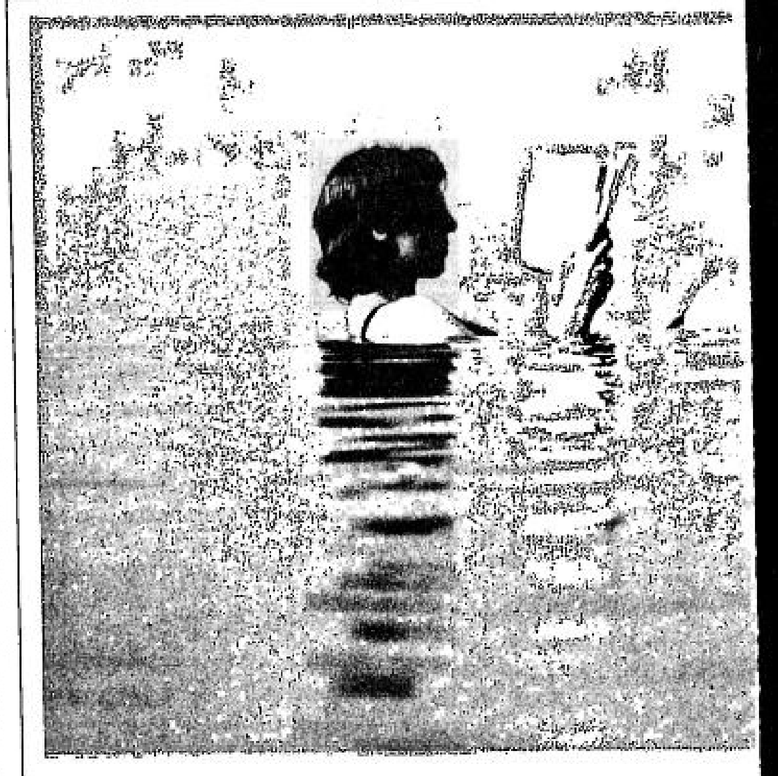
Cantoni's father, Fabio Cantoni, greeted journalists in front of his Milan apartment. "We have talked to Clementina and we found her in the same good humor as always," he said.

"Our first thoughts go to all of those people who still find themselves in the position Clementina was in."

Pope Benedict had joined calls for her release.

Sky Italia television showed pictures of Cantoni, her face and shoulders covered by a blue scarf, walking down some stairs with a woman.

Italian officials said she would spend the night at the embassy in Kabul before flying to Rome on Friday morning. *Reuters*



ENJOYING THE WATER BEFORE IT EVAPORATES

**A German tourist reads a tourist guide as she floats in the Dead Sea, June 4.
Forum last week, Jordan, Israel and the Palestinians agreed to go ahead wit
transferring water from the Red Sea to save the Dead Sea, which experts s**

Survivors urge probe of Israe

WASHINGTON—Survivors of a US spy ship attacked by Israeli fighters and torpedo boats 40 years ago are pressing the Pentagon for an investigation into alleged Israeli war crimes for a strike that caused 205 casualties, including 34 killed.

The attack on the USS Liberty occurred in international waters during the Six-Day War in 1967 between Israel, Egypt and other Arab nations. The survivors claim the attack itself was a violation of the Geneva Conventions regulating conduct of war, and that further crimes occurred when Israeli sailors fired at rescuers and firefighters on the ship's bullet-riddled deck and into rubber life rafts thrown into the water to pick up survivors.

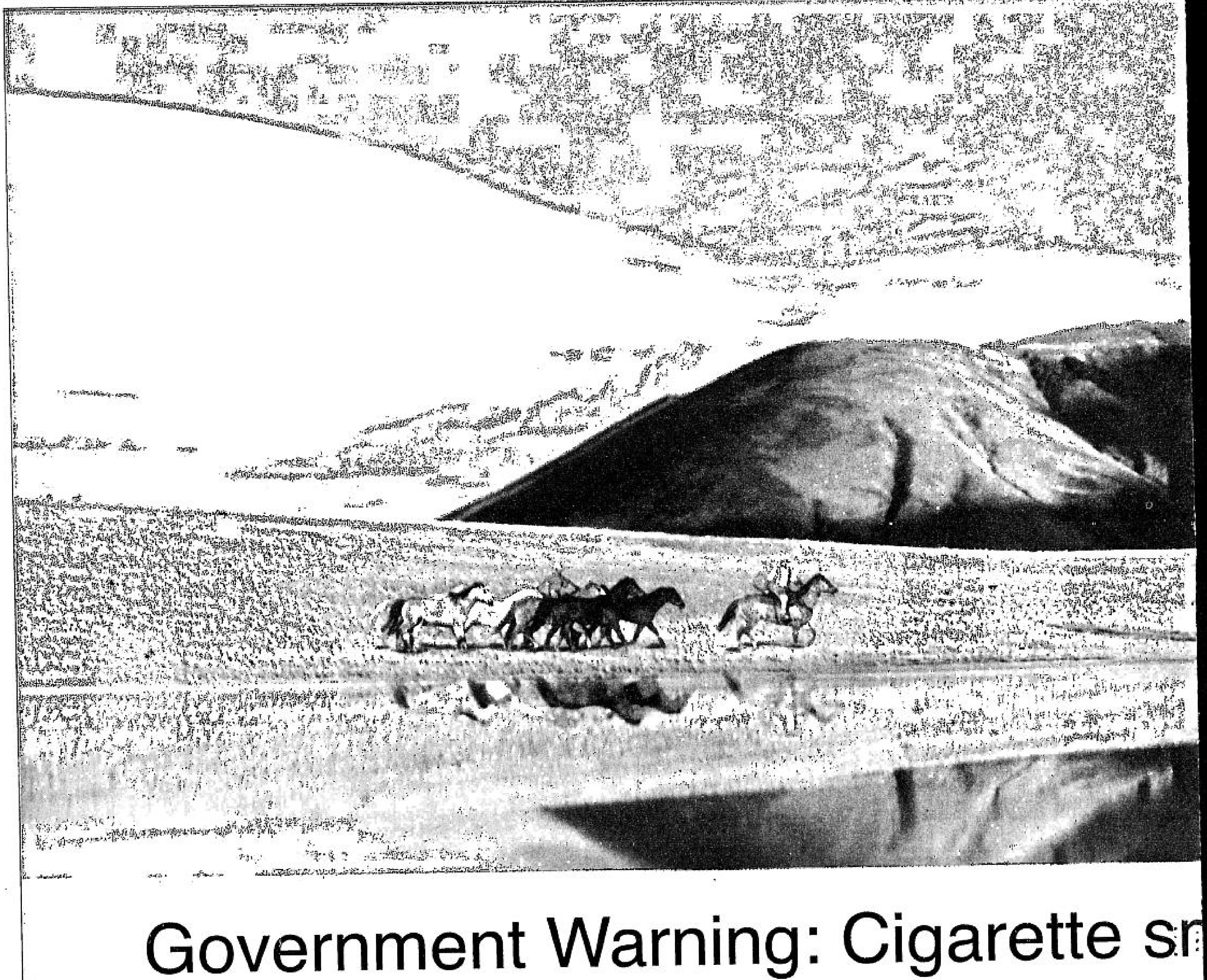
Gary Brummett, president of the USS Liberty Veterans Association, said the appeal to the Defense Department was nothing more than an appeal for justice for his shipmates. Brummett was a boiler tender aboard the Liberty.

"Politicians will not touch thi
Brummett said. "All the presid
have will not touch this issue. It
cally incorrect. All we are tryin
now is to follow the rule of law."

Their new action, a 35-page,
footnoted report demanding a fu
new investigation, quotes the law
in alleging that Israel didn't hono

On the afternoon of June 8, 19
days into the Six-Day War, Isra
planes began circling the Liber
nest of antennas collected intelli
international waters between
Egypt, in the Sinai near the Israel
and the Gaza Strip west of Isr
7,725-ton Liberty, a former civili
ship refitted into one of the era's
ligence-gathering vessels, was fl
US flag and bore US Navy markin

When the attack began, jets
strafing runs, killing at least
wounding others with gunfire,
and bombs. Three torpedo boat



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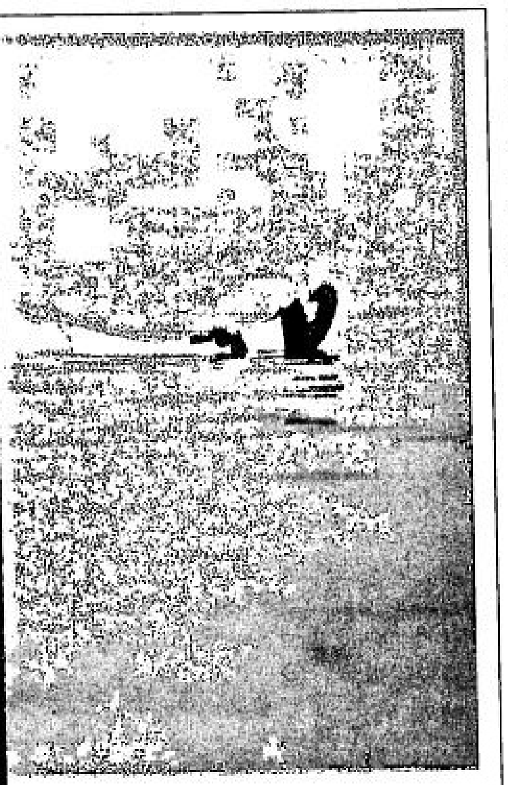

Meeting on the sidelines of the World Economic
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the fray, firing machine guns and cannon. One fired a torpedo, which missed the maneuvering ship. Another boat loosed its torpedo, which struck on the starboard side, forward of the command areas, causing more casualties, and Liberty began to list to the right. Those left among the crew of 294 officers and men kept her afloat.

Israel said its personnel mistook the ship for an Egyptian Navy vessel. US officials said that ship was far smaller than Liberty and had none of the antennas the intelligence-gatherer had.

Previous official US and Israeli investigations have found Israel guilty of nothing more than making a mistake, possibly by misidentifying the US ship. A contentious State Department-sponsored conference of historians and other experts last year failed to reach consensus.

Israel apologized and paid damages of close to US$13 million, some to families of the victims. *AP*

Strained US Army relaxes terms for incoming officers

WASHINGTON—The US Army, facing recruiting woes and a reorganized force, will relax requirements for new officers, welcoming older candidates and allowing more tolerance of past minor crimes, officials said on Thursday.

Trying to stem the loss of current personnel, the Army also has made it more difficult to kick soldiers out of the military for alcohol or drug abuse, being overweight or "unsatisfactory performance," according to a recent memo.

"We are an Army at war and increasing levels of attrition of first-term enlisted soldiers in both the training base and units is a matter of great concern," the memo stated.

These changes come as the Army struggles amid the Iraq war to sign up new soldiers at the same time it restructures its force to add numerous additional combat brigades. The regular Army has missed four straight monthly recruiting goals and is in danger of missing its first annual goal since 1999.

Lt. Col. Bryan Hilferty, an Army spokesperson, said in a statement the Army was seeking 300 currently enlisted soldiers and 300 civilians with college degrees, up to age 42, to enter Officer Candidate School. Its graduates are second lieutenants, the Army's lowest-ranking officer.

The average age for graduates of the 14-week program is 27.

Hilferty said current policy normally requires a waiver for anyone over 30 to enter the school. The oldest person to get such a waiver was 40, Hilferty said.

A May 25 memo also stated commanders "may recommend waiver of civil or military offenses" that otherwise might disqualify an applicant. Hilferty said this was not meant to lower quality standards for officers, adding, "Felonies cannot be waived. Drug offenses and sex offenses are not waived."

"An example may be a conviction for underage drinking that occurred prior to enlistment several years ago," Hilferty said of offenses that might be waived.

Col. Joe Curtin, another Army spokesperson, said as the Army creates more brigades, there is a greater demand for lieutenants as well as the higher-ranking captains and majors.

Curtin downplayed the issue of having junior officers much older than those in the current Army, stating they would possess the virtues of experience and maturity. *Reuters*

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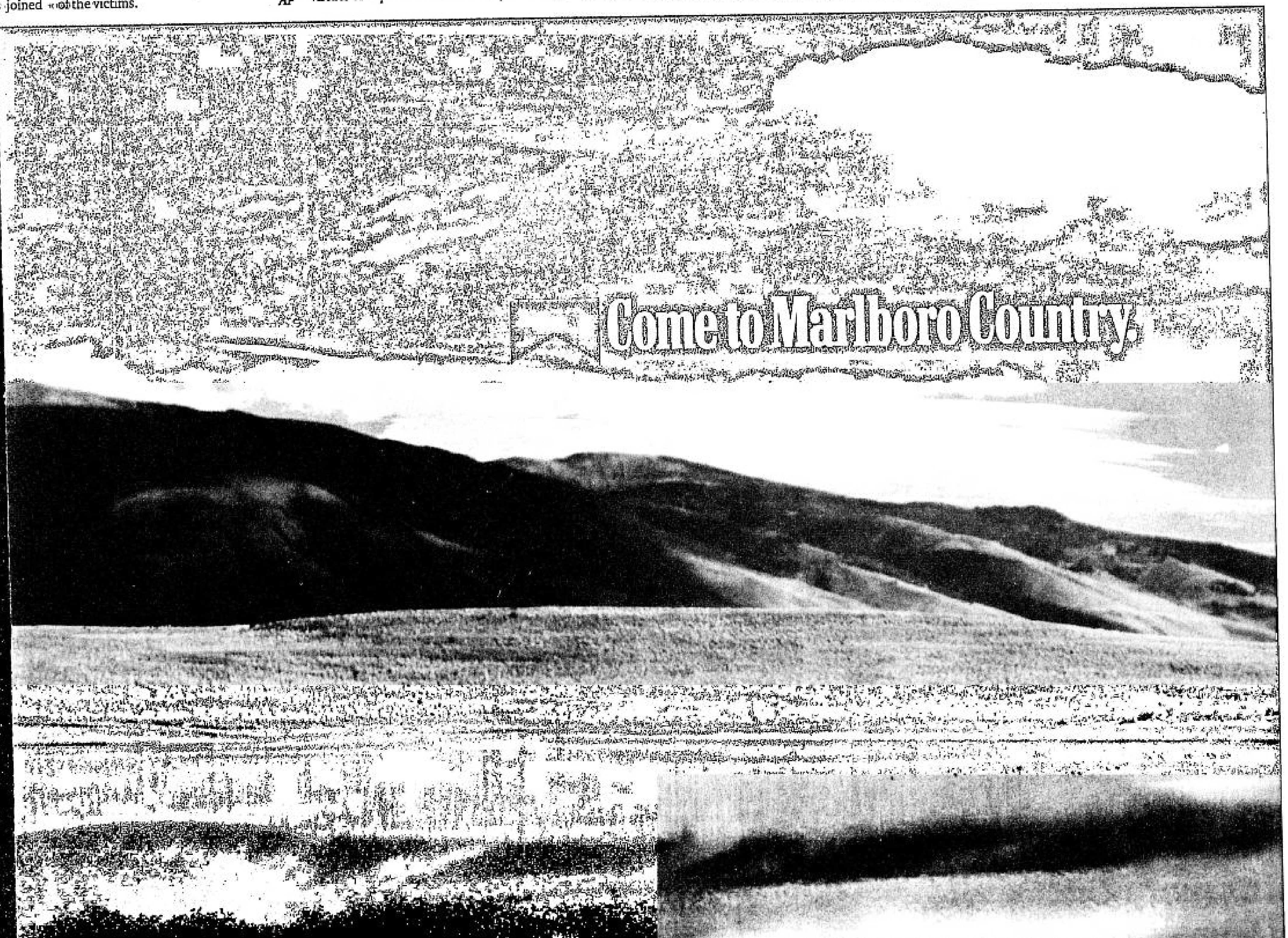

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OPINION

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Pimentel's ploy

EDITORIAL

THE SENATOR may be smart, but does he think everyone else is stupid? Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr.'s appeal on Thursday night for both President Macapagal-Arroyo and Vice President Noli de Castro to resign is a transparent attempt to gun for the presidency himself.

We are yet again in another serious political crisis, and the last thing we need is for a politician to put his personal interest ahead of the nation's. But that, through his incredible appeal, is precisely what Pimentel has done. If he pretends not to understand what we mean, we will explain.

Thursday was the first day the latest *jueteng* scandal finally gained some traction in the joint Senate committee hearings. (Let us repeat that: the very first day, because all previous testimony in the hearings or narratives peddled in the press amounted to nothing more than sensational hearsay.) In the end, the dramatic testimony of "bagwoman" Sandra Cam left more questions than answers, but there is no denying the impact she made with her tale of bank account numbers and mysterious errands.

Instead of letting the public absorb the full impact of Cam's testimony, what did Pimentel do? He jumped the gun, to seize the headline for himself.

And what a headline. The INQUIRER's was as direct as it gets: "Nene tells GMA: Resign." But while accurate, we must admit that the headline was not as precise as it could have been, because Pimentel also asked De Castro to resign the vice-presidency.

This is the point where Pimentel placed personal ahead of national interest. This is also the point where he parted ways with both political logic and simple common sense.

At this stage in the new national trauma, calling on the President to resign was a precipitate act—but it was not unexpected. As Senate President Franklin Drilon explained, such a call was "expected in a politically charged situation." (And in such a situation, Drilon added, pointedly, "the sufficiency or insufficiency of testimonies is beside the point.")

It was not unexpected because politicians whether in or out of power belong to the same predictable breed. So Pimentel, whom we would have expected to act the statesman, decided to commune with his inner politician. Hence, his amazing leap of logic. "While there is no direct evidence as yet linking her [the President] to jueteng," he argued in a statement released on Thursday night, "the web of evidence is fast closing in on her."

Wouldn't it have been more prudent for him to wait until the "web of evidence" had in fact closed in on the President? That's exactly what he did in the jueteng hearings of 2000 and in President Joseph Estrada's impeachment trial: he reserved his judgment. But then at that time he was a part of the administration. Perhaps evidence is defined differently when you find yourself in the opposition.

But calling on De Castro to resign? What on earth possessed Pimentel to say that? De Castro is not accused of any involvement in any of the scandals besetting the Arroyo administration; if there is no direct evidence "as yet" linking the President, there isn't even a shred of indirect evidence to link the Vice President.

Let us assume, for the sake of argument, that resignation is, as Pimentel asserts, the only "honorable course of action" left for the President. (It isn't, as Archbishop Oscar Cruz, the man who broke the scandal, himself said the other night.) Wouldn't the right next step be for De Castro to assume the presidency?

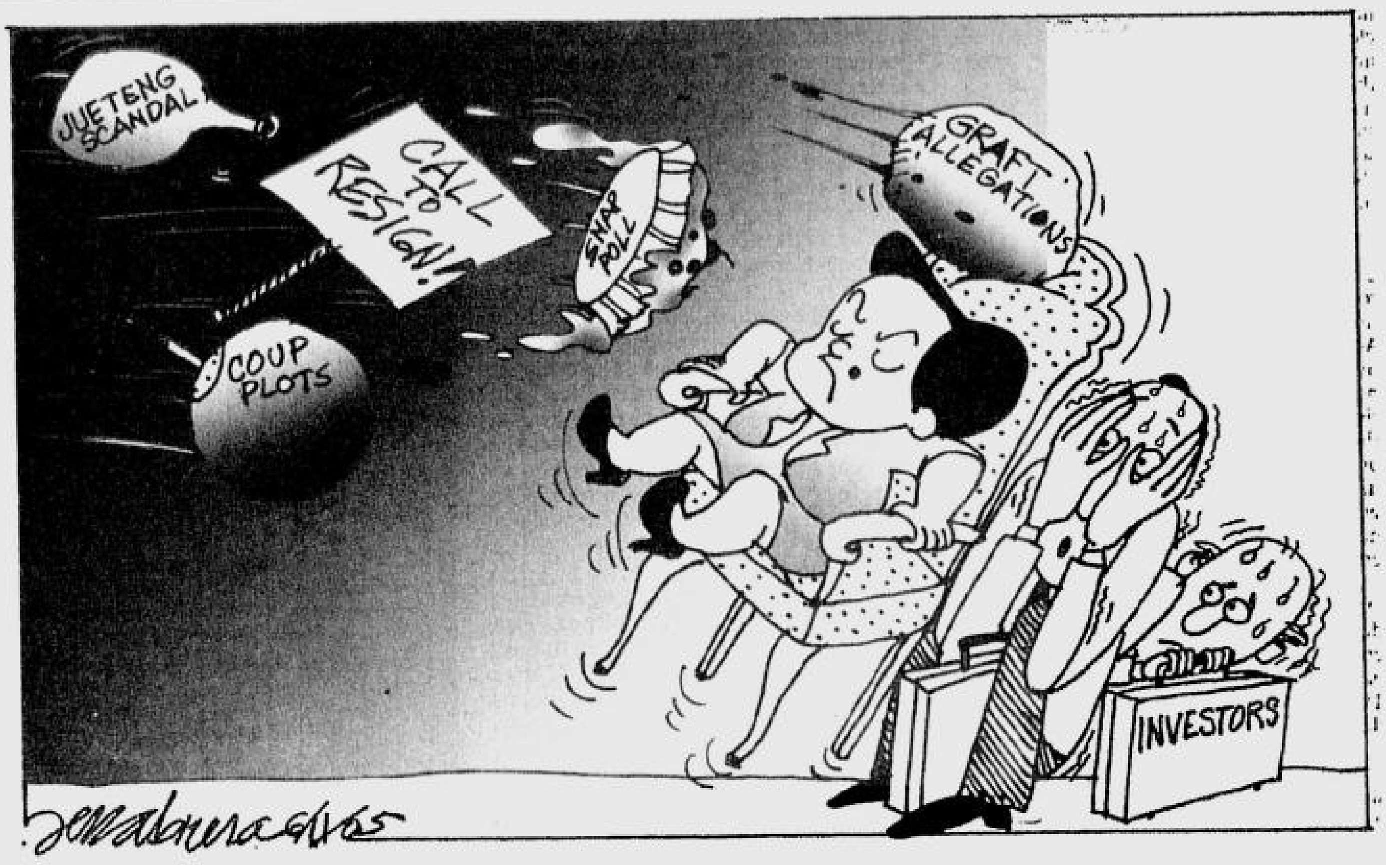
That's what the Constitution provides for. But this isn't enough for Pimentel. Because "they were both elected under questionable circumstances," he said, both Arroyo and De Castro should resign.

"Questionable circumstances"—let's think about that for a moment. Not even fraudulent, or anomalous, or illegal. Just "questionable" (as questioned by the opposition, of course).

If both Arroyo and De Castro oblige Pimentel, then they will "clear the way for the holding of new elections." Now who will run in Pimentel's snap election?

Fernando Poe Jr. has passed away. Panfilo Lacson's police background continues to unnerve other members of the opposition. Edgardo Angara has been silent. And Juan Ponce Enrile is being marginalized. That leaves Pimentel, of course!

Lawyers have the perfect word to describe Pimentel's precipitate appeal: self-serving.



'Moro-moro' in the Senate

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE CURRENT Senate investigation of the *jueteng* scandal is creating a lot of noise—and news—but it is full of the sound and fury, signifying nothing. It is like many legislative investigations, which the Constitution requires to be "in aid of legislation," but are intended only to advertise the legislators and to satisfy the public cry for blood.

How many bills have been introduced as a result of the many legislative investigations that have been conducted so far? If there were such bills, how many of them have been approved into law? I remember that several years ago, there were inquiries conducted simultaneously by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the widespread rumors that the military and some civilian officials shared in the ransom paid for the release of some persons kidnapped by the Mindanao bandits. What happened to those reports?

Rep. Roilo Golez recalled recently that he had investigated Bong Pineda some years ago in Congress but does not say what happened in that inquiry. Apparently, Pineda was absolved for he is reportedly now in the United States and is conveniently unavailable for another legislative probe. Only recently, Golez chaired another inquiry, this time of Gen. Jacinto Ligot, who was also being investigated by a court martial and also the Ombudsman. Golez was flustered when Ligot invoked his constitutional right to be silent that the nonplused congressman could not violate.

What was the point, anyway, of his investigating the general, who was already being examined by the appropriate prosecuting authorities? Golez should stop the airplane noise in Merville instead of acting like an officious prosecutor when he is not even a lawyer.

And there was the investigation of Sen. Panfilo Lacson by his own colleagues in 2001 that was finished the same year but has been effectively killed for lack of further action in the Senate. People religiously followed the hearings of that case until it was abruptly terminated with the subsequent promise that the findings of the examining committees would be reported soon. It never came despite the time, work and public funds that were wasted. Of course, no resultant bill has been proposed and the corresponding law enacted.

Those legislative investigations dealt with serious matters at least, compared to some trivial subjects that nevertheless attracted the official attention of the legislators. What happened to the probe of the unsanitary processing of *taho*, the scuffle of basketball players, and the non-admission of a sexy star to a Catholic university? These hearings were attended by many curious spectators and distracted the solons from their principal work, which was to legislate and not to investigate.

The current Senate investigation of the jueteng scandal is jointly chaired by Sen. Lito Lapid and Sen. Manny Villar, who are both capable and probably even brilliant in their basic careers as actor and businessman, respectively. But they do not know much about remedial law. They are not familiar with the rules of evidence, on which even ordinary lawyers cannot claim expertise. However, even ordinary lawyers know about the hearsay rule and understand that testimony not based on personal knowledge is generally inadmissible.

Many legislative investigators probably also do not see the difference between direct and circumstantial evidence, for which they cannot be blamed because their talents are in different fields. ("If I cannot carry mountains on my back," said the Squirrel to the Mountain, "neither can you crack a nut.") They presume too much when they pretend to be experienced litigators, especially when the government prosecutors are competently doing their work.

From the media reports, the witnesses generally rely only on what has been told them against the suspected recipients of the jueteng payola. Their information is not directly obtained by them but only derived from others. That is hearsay and should have been rejected outright. One of them has testified that she personally delivered to the alleged crooks fantastic payments amounting to millions of pesos every month. It is, of course, her word against theirs.

As might be expected, those accused—including the members of the First Family and other high government officials—have all denied the allegations. At a criminal trial before the proper court, it will be left to the judge to determine in his discretion who between the accusers and the accused should be believed. Whether the charges are true or not, judgment is usually rendered in favor of the accused in line with his constitutional presumption of innocence.

Many of these rules are unknown to or are not applied in legislative investigations. These proceedings are usually held only for the self-levitation of the members of Congress as the star attraction with the Arroyos, in this case, as the privileged respondents. The *comedia* must end.

Dead meat

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

I HAVE been glued to the television set watching the unfolding drama of "Juetenggate" in the Senate. While the headlines concentrate on the alleged involvement of the President's son and brother-in-law, what is mind-boggling is the extent that *jueteng* payola has permeated not only the entire government structure, local and national, but apparently even media as well (who is Boy Tangkad ?).

This is not the first time that the public has been treated to revelations about jueteng. Chavit Singson, four years ago, revealed a list of payees. But while the venue was also the Senate, Singson was testifying in the impeachment trial of Joseph Estrada, and his supposed involvement as a beneficiary. The tentacles of jueteng were almost tangential, hence the lack of attention to its pernicious reach.

But this time, the main subject of the Senate hearings is jueteng itself. That members of the President's family are implicated is grist for the opposition's mill, but the main focus is the extent of jueteng corruption and how to end it.

One way to end it, of course, is to legalize jueteng, because all that corruption and rent-seeking activities take place because it is illegal. Just as the Prohibition era in the United States gave rise to unprecedented corruption, which disappeared when the law was repealed. The government's rationale for making jueteng illegal is tenuous, since it has given its imprimatur to gambling casinos and lotto, which is also a numbers game, except the minimum bets are beyond the reach of the poor. So it should be theoretically easy to legalize jueteng.

Unfortunately, this will not happen. One, because the Catholic Church is against its legalization, although it receives contributions from Pagcor and the PCSO, which get their money from legalized gambling activities. And two, because government officials, from the lowliest barangay council member all the way to congresspeople, who receive bribes (some local officials are themselves jueteng operators), will be loathe to give up a source of regular income. So they are going to put on an air of piety as they rail against legalizing jueteng—a situation where they get their cake and eat it too, because they get brownie points from the Church, while continuing to collect rents from jueteng.

If the Church thinks that it can stop jueteng permanently by some kind of moral revolution, it is doomed to wait until kingdom come. Certainly, some areas are "jueteng-free," because the local officials are against it. But that will forever be the exception. Why? Because poorly paid government officials look forward to the payoffs from jueteng and will not do anything meaningful to stop it. Likewise, there is no incentive for the poor to stop betting in hopes of a windfall, and it is so easy to place their bets.

In sum, presidents may come and go, but illegal jueteng will stay forever.

And speaking of coming and going presidents, this President is in deep muck, not because of jueteng (she has not been directly implicated), but because of those recorded conversations. Certainly, before any conclusions can be made, the voices must be identified. Why such a simple thing as getting voice prints hasn't been done by either side arouses suspicions against both. Step 2 would be to find out—and again technology is available—which version is the real thing. And Step 3, if it is determined that it was the President (or first gentleman) who was talking and the other person was Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, is to examine the content of the conversations.

I have heard part of the tapes, and read the transcripts. Presidential Spokesman Ignacio Bunye presented two versions: the "authentic" (A) Malacañang version (who recorded the "authentic"? Malacañang? ISAFP?), and the "doctored" (D). In both, the female voice was the same. But the male voice recorded in A (young, strong) was, even to the untrained ear, different from the male voice in D (old, with an accent).

The female voice sounds like Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. I can't place the male voice in A, but the D male voice, I am certain, belongs to Garcillano.

So, which is the tampered version, and which is the real thing? My answer: A is the fake, and D is the real thing. One, because experienced audio technicians, whose judgment I trust, have already come informally to that conclusion. Two, because the majority of the conversations have Garcillano's voice speaking with various people, which jibes with the contention that it was Garcillano's phone that was tapped, so how could any of his conversations be fake?

And three is the transcript of a conversation on June 4 with someone who sounded like Mike Arroyo. In both the "original" and the "altered" versions, Mike says, "*Kung pwede ho, tulungan niyo si Bobby Barbers.*" Mike wouldn't say "*ho*" to a young operative in the campaign staff, he would say that to someone like Garcillano. Moreover, the other person says: "*Nandito po kami sa session ngayon, eh. Nag-usap na kami ni Senator.*" Since Senator Barbers never attended any of the canvassing in Congress, the session alluded to must be the Comelec en banc (canvassing the senatorial elections), which means it must be Garcillano on the other end—whether in the original or the doctored version.

I hope I am wrong. But if I am right, Garcillano is dead meat, Gloria is going to sink in that muck, and worst of all, the country might sink with her.

For the sake of country

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

RUMORS of destabilization have swept Metro Manila over the past two days, following the testimony of a *jueteng* bagwoman, who linked two presidential relatives to the illegal numbers game, and the circulation of tapes alleging interference in the 2004 elections by the President herself. The rumors have plunged the peso into a new low and have shaken the stock market. It is clear that the destabilization talk is affecting first and foremost the economy, which is why all thinking Filipinos who love their country should not support any move to destabilize the political situation. Our appeal is directed especially to some bishops leading a Mass rally today. They should not allow themselves to be used as tools of the destabilizers.

* * *

Some pundits, watching the unfolding events, ask however if the people would take to the streets on the testimony of confessed jueteng bagwoman Sandra Cam. Maybe Sen. Aquilino Pimentel would, as he was swept up by the assertions of the poised and comely witness and very quickly called for the resignation of the nation's two top officials. But with the authorities' revelation that Cam has a trail of estafa cases and aliases, and was implicated in political violence in her native Masbate, would the people do that? Investigators also noted that a house where Cam lived was raided on suspicions of being a shabu factory.

I was listening to veteran lawyer Mario Ongkiko being interviewed about the jueteng developments and he asserted that one counter-defense against damaging testimony is to destroy the credibility of the witness. That's exactly what the administration has done, and quite successfully.

* * *

Many are asking a logical question: If the opposition was aware of an alleged tape of GMA ordering Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano to ensure her victory in the May 2004 polls, why wasn't it exposed at the time when it could have achieved maximum effect, during the wake and funeral of Fernando Poe Jr.? Judging from recent events, the answer seems clear. Malacañang has alleged that the tape, which it claims to be fake, appears to be part of an elaborate multi-stage plan to implicate the entire Arroyo family, in an effort to bring down the prime target: GMA. Looking at the confluence of events, it's tempting to think so. But one must concede that it did take a lot of brains and money to hatch this elaborate plot. It's obvious that the opposition is constantly outwitting the administration.

* * *

First, the opposition seized on the jueteng crusade of Archbishop Oscar Cruz to implicate Arroyo relatives, including First Gentleman Mike Arroyo. But the Senate hearings seem to have succeeded only in pinning down Ignacio and Mikey Arroyo. Then came Cam's testimony that retired PNP Gen. Restituto Mosqueda had allegedly recalled to her how he practiced Ignacio Arroyo to sign as Jose Pidal, a claim that handily implicated anew Mike Arroyo in that old controversy. As Sen. Panfilo Lacson noted, those were a double-whammy from Cam.

* * *

But the problem was that all those revelations did not point directly to the President. Enter now the tape alleging her ordering electoral fraud, which is an impeachable offense. It was obviously meant to rouse the anger of the populace that revered its idol FPJ. I note that for good measure, expensive full-page ads were bought in various papers by various farmers' groups hitting the lousy record of the Arroyo family as hacenderos in Negros Occidental.

All these were happening within three weeks! Perhaps this was the opposition's fatal blunder: they seem to be too much in a hurry to oust GMA that people have seen clearly through their ploy.

* * *

Many people, notably those from the business community, are now asking, whither the Senate inquiry into jueteng? What good will it do, other than to allot precious time to allegations and counter-allegations, followed by denials and counter-denials? What possible good will it do to the question of what to do with jueteng or even its legalization? Up to this point, it has demonstrated its usefulness for destroying reputations and as tool for political vendetta. But nothing much else.

* * *

I have written several times on the pitiful cases of some depositors of PNB Sucat branch, many of them retirees, who were cheated of their life savings when two unscrupulous bank officials managed to convince these unsuspecting depositors to lend their money to a borrower at a good interest rate. When this borrower couldn't pay the loans, the depositors' savings were forfeited by the PNB. This was the modus operandi in all the cases, and the latest to write this columnist is a 76-year-old widow named Fe. C. Aviquivil, who retired from the Comelec in 1994 after 34 years of service. She deposited her entire retirement fund at the PNB main office, but in 1999 she was referred to Sucat branch manager Teresita Gregorio, who advised her to transfer all her deposits to Sucat as she lived near there. Gregorio lulled her into believing everything was legitimate as all the transactions took place inside the bank. Aviquivil initially got some earnings from her so-called "investment," but soon these stopped altogether. The PNB, acting on complaints from various quarters, finally fired the two bank officials, but it has callously refused to accept its responsibility to recompense the duped depositors.

To this date, Aviquivil has not gotten back her money and neither has anyone of the claimants who number about two dozen. It is a question of justice. Fortunately, the Bantay Katarungan group of former Senate President Jovito Salonga took pity on this group and is helping them in their suit against the PNB. It is incredible that this venerable old bank has become so reckless with its reputation.

The best 'Batman' film

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

HALFWAY through "Batman Begins," I remark to my daughter that "Batman doesn't look anything like he did in 'Interview with the Vampire.'" "Mom," she replies in a weary tone, "that was Christian Slater, this is Christian Bale."

"Senior moments" notwithstanding, it's still possible to enjoy "Batman Begins" from a purely artistic viewpoint, quite apart from the pop culture appeal of one of the most enduring comic book characters as well as movie franchises. Just when you thought Joel Schumacher's schlock-rich parodies of Batman movies had bled the series of any more possible appeal or respect, here comes Christopher Nolan reinventing the story and the persona of Batman, giving the beginnings of this comic book hero deeper and more philosophical roots.

The "problem" with Batman, after all, is that he has no superpowers, which makes him, to some comics fans, the most appealing because he is the most accessible. But while his amazing tool belt and fantastic arsenal of weaponry partly explain his almost superhuman ability, we still don't know how, as playboy tycoon Bruce Wayne, he came to possess his gifts of agility, strength and extra-sensory ability to smoke out villains.

This is where "Batman Begins" trumps all the other cinematic translations of the comic story. The movie opens not with the by-now familiar story of how Bruce Wayne lost his parents, but how he came to be haunted by his deepest, biggest fear. It also explains how he was trained in the martial arts, and how he chose "Batman" for his crime-fighting identity.

The extensive back story means it takes quite some time for the real crime-fighting action to begin. But I'd advice moviegoers to hang in there, as every step of Batman's journey and every tedious technical detail of his suit and weaponry will, later on, make sense and make all the waiting worthwhile.

Bale doesn't possess the movie-star good looks that one has come to expect of Wayne/Batman, but he gives his character depth and grounding. Excellent, too, is the supporting cast, especially Sir Michael Caine in the relatively lightweight role of Alfred the Butler, but which in his hands sometimes rivals Batman for attention. Overall, a satisfying ride.

* * *

NOT quite as filling or fulfilling is "Mr. and Mrs. Smith," which bills itself as a fun romp for its leads, Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie, who, going by tabloid reports, romped together even away from the movie set and long after the shooting was over.

There is excellent, combustible chemistry between the two leads. While watching the movie, I could feel only sympathy for Jennifer Aniston, who seems too bland and goody-two-shoes when contrasted with Jolie's smoldering brand of sensuality. Even when covered up, in a woolen turtleneck and coatdress, Jolie exudes sex appeal. And need we belabor the animal attraction of Pitt?

The filmmakers miss no chance to put the explosive couple onscreen. I would guess about 98 percent of the movie has Pitt and Jolie engaged, if not in steamy love scenes, then in even more heated combat. As a pair of expert assassins who are hired to kill a common target, and then are inevitably instructed to kill each other, the Smiths lose no time going after each other's throats. The problem for moviegoers, though, is that it takes too long for the couple to kill each other. Amusing and exciting at the start, the hunt soon degenerates into tedium and predictability. I never felt as eager to see one or both lead characters in a movie bite the dust.

Then again, we could take "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" as a metaphor for marriage, with deadly physical combat (at one point, they manage to blow up the conjugal home) standing in for the deadlier arsenal of barbed remarks, cold shoulders, sexual blackmail and passive aggressive behavior. In contrast to real couples, "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" are downright friendly to each other!

* * *

WE managed to catch one of the last few showings of "Madagascar" this week and am I glad we persisted.

To those who've read "The Life of Pi," and its author's spirited defense of zoos, "Madagascar" is the animated version of this fable. The movie is about a group of animal friends at the Central Park Zoo—a lion, a zebra, a hippo and a giraffe, along with a posse of criminal penguins and a pair of erudite chimps—who suddenly find themselves "lost" in "the wild," the bigger world which they had long wondered about but which, it turns out, they are eminently unsuited for.

Humans do tend to romanticize the "plight" of animals in zoos, imagining they must be chafing at the confinement and boredom of their "prisons" when they were born to roam the wilderness, free from constraints or human presence. But as "Life of Pi's" author posits, confinement in a zoo represents for animals the best that life has to offer, especially certainty and security, the safety of an enclosure and the reassurance of a regular supply of food. There's even a segment in "Madagascar" where the pampered zoo exiles suddenly realize they're out of their element, trapped in a world where the inhabitants are either predators or prey, where moral judgments hold no sway. (Amusingly, the first predatory scene is set to the music of the National Geographic Channel.)

But this is much too serious a reflection on such a fun movie. Pop culture references abound but I'm confident that even decades from now, "Madagascar" will continue to entertain. And don't even try to resist the invite to "move it, move it"!

Grace at the Center

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

THIS is by far the most difficult piece I have ever written. Merely being able to put subject and verb together in the right order and the correct tense does not necessarily mean you can write and get a message across. How do you put into words a relationship without sounding "schmaltzy" and turning everybody off? How do you explain that at the center of one's being is a core that is the real you that can touch the Divine?

Many of us were introduced in college to the contemplative life of a monk in the autobiography of Thomas Merton, "The Seven Story Mountain," a spiritual journey that traced his path to the Abbey of Gethsemane in Kentucky. Merton went on to write several best selling books on spirituality including "The Waters of Siloe" that no matter how many times I tried to read then I would draw a blank.

Having been raised in a Catholic household even before Merton, I had heard of Teresa of Avila's "Interior Castle" and John of the Cross' "The Ascent to Mount Carmel" and "The Dark Night," neither of which will ever reach the best seller list of The New York Times. The image of the dark night of the soul may have had a special attraction for a 17-year-old fascinated with angst, but reading these tomes was an entirely different matter. As a matter of fact, even more than 30 years later hasn't brought me any closer to having them by my bedside table. It's a good thing God doesn't expect us to be clever to please Him.

But three decades later, while attending a seminar on Centering Prayer given by Fr. Thomas Keating, a Cistercian priest, monk and abbot, light finally dawned. Teresa and John and Merton were talking about meditation, but at the time I couldn't make heads or tails of what it was all about. Never having been introduced to Zen in school or any form of Eastern meditation, there was no way I could know what meditation meant. It wasn't like something you read like the Theory of Relativity (if you were so inclined, for instance) and comprehend it. In that seminar, Father Keating introduced Centering Prayer, a prayer like no other that is meant to prepare you to receive the gift of contemplation, contemplative prayer being the prayer of interior silence.

The seeds of this seminar were planted in the 1970s, "an offshoot of the spirit of renewal that pervaded the Second Vatican Council" in the mid-1960s. "Realizing the urgency of reviving the contemplative tradition of the Church as an answer to the spiritual hunger and search for meaning among the Catholic laity, especially the youth," Fathers Basil Pennington, William Menninger and Thomas Keating worked to reintroduce the contemplative dimension of the Gospel. What they did is to take meditation out of the convent and monasteries and make it as natural as breathing.

Centering Prayer thus sets the stage for contemplation, which is described as "gazing upon the Lord without words or thoughts or symbols." You do not have to do or say or think anything: "Be still and know that I am God." You merely have to place yourself in God's eternal presence and let go of your thoughts, your emotions, your likes or dislikes. It is, fittingly enough, called the Prayer of Silence or the Prayer of Interior Silence. Quite logically, Father Keating asked how we can hear what God is telling us when we are too busy reading our novenas or reciting our rosaries. This is not to exclude these from our prayer lives but merely to put everything in its place. There is a time for everything. At some time during the day, there is a time for silence and surrender. Now you see how difficult the words are that describe a deliberate act of the will to empty the mind and still the body, an act of letting go.

If you believe that man was made for joy, read on. If not, continue your search, because there is in us a soul longing for its Creator. We are told that the minute you begin to search for God, He has already found you, which is truly a consoling thought. If you doubt that man was made to be happy (not necessarily having to wait for the afterlife that is), why would God have given him the capacity to laugh? Although we have to admit that life is not exactly a bowl of cherries and many times it feels more like a bowl of cherry pits, God did mean for you to be happy in the here and now.

One of our worst baggage, coming from Catholic schools, is the underlying message that we were meant to be happy in heaven. In the meantime, you have to suffer. This never sat well with me, which is probably the reason I found Centering Prayer insidiously attractive. (We could digress and write of the Buddhist belief that the root of our unhappiness is desire, but note that in Centering you let go of that, too.)

The other problem is, of course, that meditation is considered the purview of saints and mystics, and yet if it is described as an enjoyment of God, then it is open to all His children. Why shouldn't we enjoy His company? Centering Prayer asks you to deepen that relationship with your Creator. This is its essence, its very heart and soul.

Contemplative Outreach, Philippines (COP) is sponsoring the Centering Prayer recollection with Fr. Thomas Keating on July 23, 2005 at the ENLI, 32nd St. corner Parkway Ave., Fort Bonifacio, Global City. Contact numbers are 843-8830 (Jazmin) and 842-0201. If you think this is all hog-wash, take a leap of faith in the dark anyway. What do you have to lose?

* * *

Comments to bambiharper@yahoo.com

The price of hope

YOUNG BLOOD

Paul Gideon D. Lasco

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

THIS is a true story. And I am writing this because I want to open other people's eyes to the plight of some of our countrymen. I write this to fulfill the request of an elderly Manobo man who said to me: "Tell them how much we suffer."

Trying to escape the scorching heat of the sun and eager to try a novel adventure, I decided to spend a week of my summer vacation in Southern Mindanao. I have a classmate there who belongs to the T'boli tribe. His parents are doctors who have ceaselessly worked for the uplift of the tribes. So I flew there (it was my first travel alone) and found myself in the far-flung areas of Sultan Kudarat, villages where electricity is a luxury and cell phone signals are non-existent.

The roads were narrow and rough, the houses wooden and small. We had no mattresses for us; we slept in beds made of bamboo. We took our baths in the *poso* in front of the house, and our meals consisted of the wandering hens and the vegetables planted around houses. Talk about culture shock!

Four languages are spoken there: Cebuano, Ilonggo, T'boli and Manobo. For a time I felt out of place, but soon I could already understand Cebuano, and gradually I got used to their way of life.

Every day we would ride the *habal-habal* , a motorcycle that can carry six persons, to even more remote places where the Manobos live. Even after the ride, which could rival Enchanted Kingdom's scariest offerings, we still had to hike for an hour to reach the villages. We walked through banana plantations, corn fields and muddy footpaths littered with horse dung.

Dra. Dagang, my classmate's mother, had started a literacy program in the Manobo villages and we were able to attend their graduation. When we arrived at one village, they were already in their "school" which was actually just a nipa hut. The smell of bodies that had gone without bathing for some time permeated the air. Some women were clad in costumes—beaded necklaces and belts—but their clothes were tattered and old.

"People here are lucky to have two sets of clothes," the missionary working there told me. I could see what he meant: the kids didn't even have shorts or undergarments, leaving their genitals exposed. Their bellies bulged, infested by worms.

They were illiterate, yet they could understand what a smile meant. I played with the kids who were fascinated with my digital camera, something that's commonplace in Manila but magical in this village.

One kid stared at me with great curiosity, and when I looked at him I saw such pitiful eyes. "What will become of this kid?" I asked myself. With barely enough money to feed themselves and buy medicine, going to school was out of the question.

I wanted to do something. I asked how much schooling costs in the public school.

"Thirty pesos per year," I was told.

And they couldn't afford even that?

"They don't even have enough money for food!" came the answer.

I wanted to support the kid, even with my own allowance.

"Not here," I was advised. "This place is too far-off. No one will monitor how the funds are spent."

But I insisted. If I did nothing, I would condemn the child to a miserable life, something that could be averted.

Dra. Dagang took up my cause and asked for the boy. His name was Eldon, and he was 5 years old.

We approached the missionary and asked him if he could help us help the boy. He agreed, saying that the Manobos need every little help that could be given to them.

We went to Eldon's house, and I was moved by what I saw. His was a family of eight living in a hut no larger than our bathroom. Delia, the mother, with her five kids and her parents (her husband was already dead). She herself had no means of livelihood.

Through interpreters and gestures we communicated to each other. I was speaking out of compassion and they were speaking of hope. I will send money to them so that Eldon and his siblings can study.

Thirty pesos—less than the cost of three soft drinks—can educate a child, I kept telling myself. Later I can gather used clothes, books, canned goods and soap for the family.

In the meantime, Dra. Dagang said she would send Delia, as well as other villagers, to attend literacy and livelihood programs. And I knew the little help I was offering paled in comparison to what she was doing for them. Still I promised to do whatever I could.

We left the village amid a chorus of grateful voices. We had given them hope of a better life, a better future. The missionary later told us that there was weeping that night. But they were tears of joy from a people who have suffered for so long and who have been forsaken.

Thirty pesos is the price of hope. It is a small price to pay for progress. And I hope there will be many others who will shell it out.

Paul Gideon D. Lasco, 19, is a medicine freshmen at UP-PGH in Manila.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

If you are sending your contributions by e-mail, please address it to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address and information about your age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with.

THEY SAID

Self-management

"I don't believe in managing time. It's managing yourself and your energy. The amount of hours doesn't matter. It's the amount of energy you put in your time. If you love what you do, it's not really work."

—Miriam College senior student and rights activist Erika Sales on how she manages her multitude of activities.

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Baseless allegations leveled against EPCIB's Go and family

ON BEHALF of Antonio Go, chair of Equitable PCI Bank, I write to protest the patently false allegations made against him and his family by Vic Agustin and Conrado Banal III in their columns.

1. In his column of June 3, 2005, Agustin cited an alleged letter from three directors to the EPCIB board to castigate the three and Go's chairmanship of the bank. There is no such letter. What does exist is a letter from three directors. It nowhere contains the items cited by Agustin who himself acknowledged the non-existence of the alleged letter in his June 6 column. But instead of apologizing, he proceeded to issue another tirade against Go.

2. Agustin and Banal are evidently seeking to influence the forthcoming board deliberations on the impending disposition of shares held by a subsidiary, EBC Investments. We cannot understand why serious journalists are reporting on something still to come; we thought a journalist's duty is to report the facts.

3. Agustin and Banal have lambasted the family of Go for "unfairly" taking the helm of EPCIB, saying it holds only a 25-percent stake in it. Go was elected chair of the bank by the majority of shareholders. In addition, Go's family founded EPCIB and grew the bank into what it is today. It is not unfair that a member of the family should enjoy the trust of shareholders.

4. Agustin and Banal suggest that the government should run the bank because, together with the SSS and GSIS, it holds more shares than the Go family. In our view, this is entirely an issue for shareholders to decide. It bears pointing out that the Go family holds the single biggest stake of a private shareholder at 25 percent; the next closest is the family of Benjamin Romualdez, with a stake of 7 percent. The idea that the government should be running a financial institution as big as EPCIB is a question of competence, capability and credibility. For the record, since the team of Go and Rene Buenaventura took over in 2002, EPCIB has consistently posted growth in earnings and improvement of operations, and it has led all banks in the appreciation of its price in the stock market.

5. Agustin and Banal were also at the forefront of the campaign to railroad the SSS sale of its EPCIB shares to Banco de Oro. This was not consummated because of its disadvantageous terms to the government and SSS members. We find it comical that Banal is now singing the tune of "the interests of SSS members" as he bats yet again for unseen forces trying to gain control of EPCIB.

The patent unfairness and even racist overtones of the journalism of Agustin and Banal leave us saddened because the INQUIRER has been for years the champion of fair and balanced journalism in our country. The least the family of Go expects is fair treatment and an honest presentation of facts and issues from your paper.

—RENE DE LOS REYES,
executive assistant to Antonio Go,
Equitable PCI Bank,
Makati Avenue cor. HV dela Costa
Street, Makati City

Napocor electricity more costly

THIS is in reaction to a letter that was sent by Pete Ilagan of the National Association of Electricity Consumers for Reforms (Nasecore). (PDI, 6/6/05) We are glad to note that Ilagan admits that the latest increase in the electricity rates of the National Power Corp. was cut in half by Meralco.

However, Ilagan yet again resurrects a previous issue that we have already answered in various fora. He insists that Meralco should have bought and should continue to buy all its power supply from Napocor, rattling off figures to validate his claim.

But there is one fatal flaw in Ilagan's arguments. He insists on comparing Napocor's generation charges with those of Meralco's IPPs while deliberately leaving out the transmission cost. He also deliberately fails to mention that Napocor's rate was artificially brought down by over P1/kWh in May 2002 in compliance to a presidential directive. It should come as no surprise then for Napocor to petition in 2004 for a close to P2/kWh-increase in Luzon, of which P1.23/kWh was granted in October 2004, and another 9.12 centavos/kWh this April. In addition, Napocor has been allowed close to recover 50 centavos/kWh on prior-period costs, which are collected as a monthly add-on to the basic charge.

To view this issue in the proper context, Ilagan should have used more updated figures. For the month of March 2005 (prior to the second round of Napocor increases), the cost of Napocor power (inclusive of the P1.55/kWh transmission related costs) was P5.6943/kWh. This is about 30 centavos more than the per-kWh costs of purchased power from Meralco's major IPPs (Quezon Power P5.40; Sta. Rita, P4.80; San Lorenzo, P5.29). Even if we remove 20 centavos/kWh of the other charges and components of Napocor's rate, the cost of Napocor power will still be higher at P5.49/kWh. And this does not include yet the 47-centavo increase Napocor implemented starting last April 26, which easily raised the cost of Napocor electricity to P5.96/kWh.

Ilagan should also know that if the IPPs were run at contract levels or at Minimum Energy Quantity (MEQ), the effective average cost of purchased power from the IPPs could have further gone down on a per kWh-basis to P4.96 for Quezon Power, P4.70 for Sta. Rita, and P4.80 for San Lorenzo. Again, the IPP rates are already the combined generation and transmission charges. (Note that the Napocor rates are P5.4943/kWh, or P5.96/kWh with the 47 centavo increase.)

We hope that by sharing these figures, we have clarified whatever misimpressions Ilagan continues to create against Meralco. Should Ilagan insist on his position, I suggest that he go to the proper venue, which is the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC).

—ELPI CUNA JR.,
vice president
and director,
Corporate
Communication,
Meralco, Pasig City

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Genuine sweat is odourless. But when a saprophyte (fungus or bacterium) comes into contact with a glyceride of sweat, a fatty acid which emits an unpleasant odor is produced.

The Ag+ ion kills the saprophyte. Without the saprophyte, sweat cannot decompose to emit an unpleasant odor.

Human sweat is odorless, but add bacteria and what you get is an unpleasant smell. That is why Samsung washing machines' Silver Nano ion generator produces silver ions to bond with fabric and kill bacteria – even in cold water. The result? Clothes that stay fresh for as long as 30 days. Samsung. Because life is worth protecting.

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Graft and corruption keeps elite in power

THE CONCERNED Artists of the Philippines (CAP) lauds the editorial "Culture and corruption." (PDI, 5/23/05) It specifically referred to the National Commission for Culture and the Arts-sponsored culture summit, with the theme, "The Power of Arts and Media Education in Breaking the Cycle of Corruption and Poverty."

Artists and cultural workers should indeed be wary about "any campaign against corruption led and waged by the government which, after all, is the playground of the corrupt."

Much as it is ironic for anybody in government to be preaching about "values" and corruption, it is in line with its globalization policy. The MTPDP 2004-2010 chapter on Anti-Corruption proclaims that, "To improve the country's ability to attract foreign investments means building an effective government bereft of graft and corruption." Meaning, the foundation of President Macapagal-Arroyo's anti-corruption drive is "to attract foreign investment."

Clearly, the government would now like the arts and media community to echo its equation: corruption is a barrier to foreign investments; foreign investment is the key to development; ergo, corruption will eradicate poverty. Unfortunately, politics and economics are not simple arithmetic. There are the more essential considerations for analysis—the country's neocolonial ties with United States, the problem of landlessness and patronage politics.

Contrary to your conclusion that the success of the war on corruption depends on the sincerity of the Arroyo administration, our take is that, any anti-corruption drive by the government will not succeed because it is contradictory to the nature of its existence. With the present system, the political and economic elite gain and maintain their power through corruption.

This does not mean that we are not against corruption. It's just that our anti-corruption advocacy is grounded on the opposite side of the fence. The Filipino masses are the victims of corruption, as corruption allows the political and economic elite to sell out our country's human and natural resources to foreign entities.

In a related incident in the conference, CAP artists were manhandled and bodily dragged away from the convention hall by hotel security and the Kalahi arnis martial artists, a group funded by the NCCA. At this instance, we would like to remind NCCA officials that martial arts is not included in the seven arts of its charter.

Our fault is that we overestimated the capacity of the NCCA to be tolerant of alternative artistic methods and contrary views. We should have foreseen the extension of the repressive Arroyo regime in the institution, whose executive director, Cecile Guidote-Alvarez, is also the presidential adviser on culture.

—JULIE L. PO,
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Nationwide power shutdown planned

BAGUIO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo's public traumas may be mounting but can she also take a nationally simulated blackout?

The Benguet Electric Cooperative (Beneco) is encouraging its consumers to voluntarily shut off their power on June 12, Independence Day, as part of a national protest against the value-added tax (VAT) now imposed on electricity use.

Consumers joining the protests are expected to simultaneously switch off their electricity at 7 p.m., said Gerardo Versoza, Beneco general manager.

Most of the country's 119 rural electric cooperatives have signified their support, said Luis Manuel Corral, secretary general of the Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives (Apec) party-list group.

"The President should [view the anti-VAT protest as an opportunity to become a hero with] a public turnabout because VAT on power will hit the marginalized poor... She shouldn't believe corporations. Corporations will always pass the VAT onto the consumers, and in the end it is the urban and rural poor who will bear the cost," he said.

Corral said Ms Arroyo could no longer hide behind "the lie" that the VAT on power could be mitigated by life line rates, or special discounts accorded poor consumers because these rates would be shouldered by other consumers, and not by the government.

"The President should also realize that the VAT on power would hurt the economy [she is trying to rebuild]," he added.

The latest studies indicate that power rates in the provinces will rise by as much as 13 percent when VAT is applied on July 1, Corral said.

Republic Act 9337, the amended VAT law, removes the exemptions imposed on many basic goods like fuel and electricity.

But Corral said it also made the power industry fall under the coverage of other tax regimes like franchise taxes. "These add-on taxes will multiply power rates by 13 percent, and not just by the 10 percent VAT that is passed on to consumers," he said.

He said Malacañang never consulted their sector when it pushed for unrestricted VAT, and instead adopted the stance of senior energy officials.

But the Department of Finance backtracked when it met with gas dealers, who threatened to create an artificial shortage because of the July 1 implementation of VAT. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

MILF KIDS

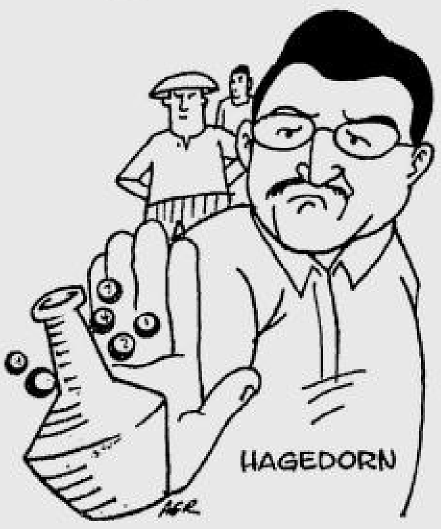
DENNIS JAY SANTOS/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

In their best attires, children of MILF members prepare a native dance performance during the rebel group's biggest convention held at Camp Darapanan, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao.

Ex-collectors say political will killed 'jueteng' in Puerto, Palawan

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Amid the controversy linking several politicians to the huge payoffs from the illegal numbers racket "jueteng," this city and municipalities in Palawan had shut jueteng for more than a decade now.

"Jueteng was put to a stop when local officials made a serious campaign in 1993. It is now one of the few provinces in the Philippines that could claim a status of being jueteng-free but of course, not gambling free.



Amado Lucero, a former jueteng boss or *cabo* in Filipino, said there might be huge payoffs given to authorities because it would have not thrived during the heydays of jueteng in Palawan from the 1970s until 1993.

But when Mayor Edward Hagedorn and other officials vowed to stop jueteng in the city, any attempt to revive the illegal numbers game was unsuccessful.

Lucero said he had around 50 jueteng collectors under him who surrendered.

He got 5 percent from the collection of every collector.

During that time, the draws were done twice a day in different locations to avoid being caught.

"We change jueteng stations from time to time to avoid the authorities. Sometimes, the police run after us. There were those who suffered broken limbs from that," he said.

When jueteng was eradicated in the city, former collectors were given seed-money to start their small business and some were employed at the city hall.

Until now, former jueteng operators are still with the city government and have remained loyal to Hagedorn.

"The mayor's orders were not to revive jueteng," Lucero said.

Lucero, a well-respected man in the community, become a three-time city councilor.

He held the position of market superintendent and is now in charge of the senior citizens' affair of the city government.

He said the only way to eradicate jueteng is political will, which Hagedorn had shown.

Another three-time city councilor, Daniel Josol, agreed with Lucero.

Josol has now retired but busies himself by collecting bets for a government sanctioned game of chance called easy two lotto. It is like jueteng, the only difference is it is legal, Josol said.

He gets a commission for every winning bet he collects.

When lotto was introduced in the city several years ago, it was met with opposition from the Church, civil society and nongovernment organizations but it still pushed through because it was state-run and the franchise is given by Congress and not by local government units.

"Jueteng could no longer survive here because of the easy two lotto. I am sure of that," Josol said.

Josol said the queue of people hoping for their luck at lotto stations is like in the blockbuster movie.

But legalizing jueteng is not a solution to the problem because of the presence of easy two lotto and other competing games legally operated by the government. *Jofelle P. Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

School refuses to admit student for leading rallies vs fee hikes

BAGUIO CITY—A nursing student is not graduating next year after his school refuses to admit him for leading student rallies last year.

Chester Mark Tuazon, a student of the Baguio Central University (BCU) and a scholar of the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd), said he was shocked on Monday after the school registrar and the dean refused to admit him following an order from Dr. Margarita Fernandez, BCU president.

"The school registrar and dean of the nursing department told me that I could not enroll because the president of the school said so. They said the president's main reason was I led a student rally. I was also told to transfer to another school," he said.

Fernandez did not want to talk to INQUIRER when asked to comment.

On April 27, Fernandez asked Magdalena Jasmin, director of the Commission of Higher Education-Cordillera, to transfer Tuazon to other schools for leading student rallies.

"This is to request your good office that your scholar, Mr. Chester Mark Tuazon, who led several rallies without permit from offices, be transferred to another school," Fernandez said in a letter.

"Such request is due to my health condition. At my age, I am easily affected physically and emotionally, which is detrimental to my efficient management of Baguio Central University. Possible and similar incidents should be avoided," she added.

In his letter on May 23, Tuazon questioned Fernandez's decision, saying it was a violation of his constitutional right to education.

He also asked CHEd officials to support his scholarship at BCU because he passed all his subjects in school year 2004-2005.

Tuazon asked the CHEd-Cordillera to intervene in his case, saying it would be difficult for him to transfer to another school.

"Since 2002, I have been a student of BCU and have never committed any acts detrimental to the school. My involvement in leading student protests against certain affiliation program is in performance of my obligations as governor of the College of Nursing and Senate of the student parliamentary," Tuazon said. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

ANNOUNCEMENT

Joint sale of ownership interest in Philippine National Bank

PNB

The Joint Technical Committee (the "Committee"), duly constituted by the Republic of the Philippines ("ROP"), through the Department of Finance ("DOF"), and the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation ("PDIC"), announces that the ROP, PDIC, and Lucio Tan Group shall jointly sell a 67% ownership interest in Philippine National Bank ("PNB" or the "Bank") (the "Transaction"), in accordance with the provisions of the Joint Sale Agreement dated 1 August 2002 and other related agreements.

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

Interested parties in good standing with regulatory agencies, committed to, and with sufficient financial capability to further develop and enhance the Bank are invited to submit to ING Bank N.V., the exclusive financial advisor to the Committee, a request to pre-qualify together with the following:

(1) full name of the interested party, address, telephone and telefax number of principal contact;
(2) business overview;
(3) list and nationality of shareholders and their respective shareholdings; in the case of corporate shareholders, the principal shareholders thereof and their respective nationalities;
(4) evidence of financial capacity to pursue the Transaction (e.g. audited financial statements or equivalent);
(5) Duly executed confidentiality agreement (form may be obtained from ING Bank N.V.);
(6) if the interested party is a consortium, all the information and documents enumerated above in respect of each member of the consortium, and the consortium shareholding structure.

All documents must be duly certified/signed by an authorized representative of the interested party. All pre-qualification requirements must be submitted to ING Bank N.V. no later than 5:00 p.m. Manila time on 1 July 2005 at any of the following addresses:

The Philippines
21st Floor, Ayala Tower I
Ayala Avenue
Makati City
Philippines
Attention: Juan Carlos Syquia
Phone: (632) 840 8887

Hong Kong
39th Floor, One International Finance Center
1 Harbour View Street,
Central
Hong Kong
Attention: Gopal T. Menon
Phone: (852) 2913 8639

Interested parties should direct all clarifications to ING Bank N.V. – Corporate Finance during regular office hours at the above contact details.

Pre-qualified interested parties will be informed shortly thereafter and will be provided with a Bidding Package, which includes the bidding rules and an information memorandum on PNB. The Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any interested party without offering any reason whatsoever.

Only pre-qualified interested parties shall be allowed to further participate in the bidding. Bids shall be submitted to the Bidding and Negotiating Committee at Long Gallery, 3rd Flr, PNB Financial Center, Pres. Diosdado Macapagal Avenue, Pasay City from 8 a.m. to 12 noon on 12 August 2005 or at such date, time and place as may be subsequently announced by the Committee.

The Bidding and Negotiating Committee has the right to accept or reject any bid.

In the event of a failed bid, the Bidding and Negotiating Committee shall negotiate directly with the highest qualified bidder.

The bidding process shall be governed by applicable Philippine laws, rules and regulations.

The Committee and the Bidding and Negotiating Committee do not assume any obligation to compensate or indemnify any party for any expense or loss that may be incurred as a result of participating in the Transaction.

Finally, the Committee and the Bidding and Negotiating Committee reserve the right to terminate the Transaction or modify, supplement or change the rules and conduct of bidding and any other aspects of the Transaction at any time. Interested parties will be notified subsequently of any modification, supplement or change.

JOINT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

OFWs in Saudi cry for help to return home

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—A number of Filipino workers in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, are pleading that they be immediately repatriated after accusing their supposed hospital employer of treating them like prisoners.

Several of them are Kankanaeys from this province who sent Mayor Nestor Fongwan a letter that revealed their ordeal under Ahmad Annasban, director of the unnamed hospital.

In their letter dated May 19, the workers said they arrived in the hospital in Riyadh last April 16 but since then, they have not been given their promised jobs.

Instead, they said they were detained and their movements were restricted. "Please help us leave this prison camp," they said. The letter, which Fongwan received on June 6, said there are "hundreds of us here from all over the Philippines" who were recruited early this year by YHMD International Manpower Corp. to work as janitors, nurses, midwives and physical therapists.

"But we have not been employed," they said, adding that some of them were forced to work as caregivers but were given a very low salary.

"There is no work here. All is not permanent. Nothing was followed in the contract particularly on food and accomodation," they said in their letter.

Fongwan endorsed the letter on June 7 to the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration office in Baguio City which immediately called the attention of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.

Adela Dario, Cordillera POEA officer-in-charge, said once the workers are repatriated, they can file a case for recruitment violation and claim for damages against the agency.

Dario said the agency is owned by Marie Teresa Dawud, a licensed recruiter. Anthony Basil, the OWWA officer assigned to handle the case, said he would formally inform the Saudi Arabia embassy in Manila about the workers' complaints.

The workers said in their letter that each of them was given 100 to 150 Saudi rials but the amount was not enough to buy their needs.

In fact, they said, one of them, a woman recruit from Baguio City showed signs of mental disturbance that the hospital officials were forced to take her elsewhere.

"We do not know where she is now," they said. They said they were not allowed to write or make a telephone call except for the letter addressed to Fongwan which, they said, was secretly mailed.

"We are begging you to make us free from this prison camp. Please take action as soon as possible because we are afraid that something might happen to us," the workers asked Fongwan. "We are just being kept here without jobs and we are hungry," they said. *Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

BANAWE HARVEST

Mother Agnes, a local of Mt. Province, harvests rice in fields in the mountains of Kadaclan. Most youngsters of the province had turned their backs on farming, forcing their elders to continue to till the land.

MITCH MAURICIO

US Army experts return to Sulu for 'assessment'

JOLO, Sulu—Fifteen US military experts returned to Sulu on Thursday to "finalize details" of their assessment of the needs of residents.

Lt. Col. Eric Haider, chief of the Joint Special Operation Task Force Philippines-Forward, said he hoped the assessment would provide communities in the province with better services and facilities.

"We are here to complete the missing details of our more than 200 pages of assessment report, and we are looking for final approval of the (proposed) projects here," Haider told reporters at the Sulu Provincial Capitol Building here.

The missing details, he said, include the cost estimates for a water treatment facility in Panamao town and the upgrading of the water facility of the Sulu Provincial Hospital.

Col. Domingo Tutaan Jr., chief of staff of the military's Southern Command, said the return of the American experts would "hopefully concretize some plans for a longer stay (in the province) in order to build unfriendly communities against terror."

"Once the people enjoy a better living condition, they would surely become hostile to lawless elements and terror groups like the Abu Sayyaf," Tutaan said.

The assessment, which was conducted in May, covered at least 46 barangays in conflict affected areas in Panamao, Talipao and Maimbung towns. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Foreigner found dead

HAGONOY, Bulacan—A foreigner was found dead in Barangay Abulalas here on Tuesday. Bhogal Vishkarma Singh had bullet wounds in the head and body. His mouth was covered with packaging tape and he was in handcuffs when discovered by residents of Abulalas. Police said they were still checking Singh's nationality. Chief Insp. Ramon Escartin, police chief here, said they identified Singh, who was about 50 years old, through a return ticket to Germany that was found in his pants' pocket. Escartin said residents in Abulalas ignored the gunshots they heard on Monday night in the area, thinking these came from firecrackers. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

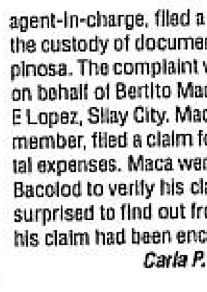
Rebs kill traders

COTABATO CITY—Moro rebels have killed two traders, who went missing in Midsayap, North Cotabato late last month, because of suspicions they were government agents, the military said yesterday. Maj. Gen. Agustin Dema-ala, chief of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said victims Rolando Cagasan and Sergio Ramos were buying livestock when they disappeared. Dema-ala said they got information that the victims' remains were buried in Barangay Olandang, also in Midsayap, but efforts to locate these have failed. He said a group, led by a commander Banaring Bangon, was identified as responsible for the killings. Dema-ala said they were now working with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) for the arrest of the suspects. *Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

No fees for pupils

COLUMBIO, Sultan Kudarat—More than 2,000 elementary pupils from Columbio Central Elementary School in Columbio town, Sultan Kudarat have enrolled this school year without paying a single centavo. Their miscellaneous fees and dues for the Parents-Teachers and Community Association (PTCA) were shouldered by Sagittarius Mines Inc. (SMI) and the local government of Columbio. SMI and the Columbio government agreed to raise P200,000 to cover the fees of pupils in the town. Mayor Edwin Bermudez said the amount might be insignificant to some people but it certainly helped parents of poor children in his town. Columbio is part of the area where SMI operates a copper and gold mine. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Postmaster faces raps



BACOLOD CITY—The second of a series of complaints against the postmaster of Silay City for the illegal encashment of PhilHealth checks was filed before the Silay City Prosecutor's Office on Friday. Primitivo Najera, National Bureau of Investigation (NBI)-Bacolod agent-in-charge, filed a complaint for "infidelity in the custody of documents" against Franco Espinosa. The complaint was filed by NBI-Bacolod on behalf of Bertito Maca of Malisbog 4, Barangay E Lopez, Silay City. Maca, an indigent PhilHealth member, filed a claim for reimbursement of hospital expenses. Maca went to the PhilHealth office in Bacolod to verify his claim, Najera said. Maca was surprised to find out from the PhilHealth office that his claim had been encashed by somebody else. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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INQUIRER Visayas

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Reforestation turns ripe for profits

By Romy G. Amarado
Dumaguete City

SOON, he will be reaping millions of pesos from what he planted—literally—out of a desire to save the forest. And his is a showcase of a successful reforestation project undertaken by a private individual.

Retired Col. Juan Tiempo began planting trees in the late '80s in Barangay Tayawan, Bayawan City, 102 km south of Dumaguete City, when he was a junior officer of the defunct Philippine Constabulary assigned in Negros Oriental.

"In my previous assignments with the [PC], I noticed that our forest was forgotten and left unproductive. So I thought of it as a challenge, and since nobody else took the lead, I started planting trees in Tayawan," Tiempo recalled.

"Business was not in my mind. What I wanted is to help our ecosystem and help the people," he added.

Tiempo was PC-Integrated National Police commander in Negros Oriental in 1991. Before he retired from the service that same year, he had assumed tasks in various capacities in the province, enabling him to establish a base in Tayawan.

Ifma holder

Using his retirement pay to bankroll his dream, Tiempo went full-time into planting trees in public land declared by the government as alienable and disposable and offered to private individuals for reforestation.

In 1994, he obtained an Integrated Forest Management Agreement (Ifma) from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to reforest 850 hectares of denuded forest land in Tayawan. The contract expires after 25 years but is renewable for another 25 years.

By 1998, Tiempo's area expanded to 1,300 ha.

To finance the project, Tiempo borrowed P19.8 million from the Land Bank of the Philippines and employed around 200 workers. At present, he maintains a workforce of 40 people to watch the trees.

According to Charlie Fabre, former provincial reforestation coordinator and now community environment and natural resources officer in Dumaguete, Tiempo's forest plantation can easily command a price of not less than P300 million.

Prospective buyers

The area is planted with mangium and eucalyptus trees, and each tree has an average diameter of 30 centimeters and height ranging from eight to 15 meters.

Fabre said the trees were now ready for harvest. Under the Ifma, he said, Tiempo would get all the proceeds of the plantation.

However, Tiempo said he might be waiting for sometime to earn his millions. Prospective buyers who had approached him either offered to buy his trees at a low price or wanted a very small volume, he said.

He disclosed that a prospective Singaporean buyer would be meeting him this month.

The government has been encouraging private entities or individuals to engage in reforestation under Ifma because it does not have enough funds to support such undertaking, Fabre said. "This is a very good program and a great help to the government," he said.

Private sector help

He said the Ifma tasks the private sector with helping reforest denuded mountains without a single centavo coming from the government.

In Negros Oriental, there are four Ifma holders, the environment official said. Among them is transport magnate Ricardo Yanson and his wife Olivia, who entered into a contract with the DENR to reforest some 750 ha in Barangay Cabatuanan, Basay, 130 km south of Dumaguete.

The Yansons, who own Vallacar Transit which operates a fleet of buses in the Visayas and Mindanao, began reforestation work in 2003.

Fabre identified the other Ifma holders as a certain Lacson and Mister Uy.

THESE trees in retired Col. Juan Tiempo's plantation in Tayawan, Bayawan are now ready for harvest. PHOTOS BY ROMY AMARADO

RETIRED Col. Juan Tiempo and CENRO personnel inside Tiempo's massive tree plantation in Tayawan, Bayawan.

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10 Senate allies, 2 bishops spurn GMA

From page A1

administration legislators to "impeach" the credibility of the jueteng witnesses.

So far, the sharpest statements in the three hearings had come from Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago. Senators Ramon Revilla and Richard Gordon also went after the credibility of the witnesses.

Asked if the President was unhappy with the Senate investigation, the senior senator said: "The President is nervous."

The dinner would have taken place on the same night that jueteng bagwoman Sandra Cam came out on ABS-CBN to claim she delivered jueteng payola to Congressmen Mikey and Iggy Arroyo, the President's son and brother-in-law respectively.

An administration senator said the invitation for the Malacañang dinner was extended as early as Monday, the day jueteng bagmen Richard Garcia and Abraham Riva testified in the Senate linking First Gentleman Mike, Mikey and Iggy to jueteng.

A senator said at least 10 senators were set to go until they decided to "back out" at the last minute.

A third senator said the administration senators discussed if it was proper to go to a Palace dinner in the middle of the jueteng investigation.

A fourth senator said that, among those who had reservations, Sen. Mar Roxas gave the opinion that they should not be perceived as being dictated upon by Malacañang.

Roxas' instinct

"You know Mar has a very keen sense of political developments," a colleague said, noting that Roxas was among the first members of the Estrada Cabinet who quit before Joseph Estrada's downfall.

Roxas confirmed he was invited to dinner but said he could not go because of a previous engagement. But Roxas declined to confirm if he had reservations about going to the dinner.

A senator, however, said Roxas told his colleagues that going to the dinner would "compromise our individual and institutional credibility."

"Even if we are supportive of her, if our credibility will be diminished then we would be ineffectual. If it is perceived that we were ordered [by the President], our credibility will be destroyed," he recalled Roxas as saying.

Roxas said the better way was for party members to express unsolicited support for the President, like what he and his Liberal Party members did when they went to Malacañang a few days ago.

Bishops say 'No'

An opposition senator said he had been asked by a Malacañang emissary to join hands with the President.

"The proposal was for us to unite," the senator said.

The rebuff from the senators came after two Roman Catholic Church prelates spurned Ms Arroyo's appeal to them to cancel today's planned massive protest action against her administration.

Ms Arroyo met with Bishops Deogracias Iñiguez of Caloocan and Antonio Tobias of Novaliches over dinner Tuesday to personally air her plea, a source privy to the meeting told the INQUIRER.

The meeting was purportedly arranged by House Speaker Jose de Venecia who had said that "the next few days [were] difficult moments for our country and people."

A compromise

"The President asked them if they could cancel the national day of mourning," the source said. "She told the bishops to give her a chance."

But Iñiguez and Tobias, who will lead the multisectoral action, politely turned down her request, the source said.

The bishops, instead, agreed on a "compromise" by not demanding her ouster during the planned prayer rally set at Manila's Liwasang Bonifacio at 2 p.m., said the source.

Iñiguez confirmed the meeting with Ms Arroyo but declined to give details.

"Our talk was confidential. It was about a different matter," he said in a text message in Filipino.

He did not reply when asked if Ms Arroyo had indeed asked that today's rally be cancelled.

Tobias did not reply to an INQUIRER text message.

On Thursday, two days after the Malacañang dinner, Iñiguez called a press conference and said the mass action was not meant to seek the President's ouster.

No 'People Power'

In a statement, he said he and Tobias still recognized Ms Arroyo as "the duly constituted political leader of the country."

Iñiguez also said he was not supporting another People Power revolt, saying that would be unconstitutional and would not "contribute to the betterment of the country."

Despite the purported compromise, the two bishops were expected to spearhead what could be the biggest anti-Arroyo rally since the May 2004 elections.

The event is expected to gather some of the most vocal critics of Ms Arroyo from the United Opposition (UNO), the pro-Estrada People's Movement Against Poverty, and even from warring left-leaning groups, such as Bayan, Akbayan and Sanlakas.

The other players

The planned protest was organized by the Kilusang Makabansang Ekonomiya. Iñiguez and Tobias, along with Bishop Emeritus Julio Xavier Labayen, are senior advisers of the group.

Expected to show up are opposition Senators Jamby Madrigal, Alfredo Lim, Luisa Ejercito and her son Jinggoy, according to KME chair Jimmy Regalario.

Defeated presidential candidate Bro. Eddie Villanueva and members of his Jesus Is Lord Movement have also expressed their intention to join the rally, Regalario said.

He said Mayors Jejomar Binay of Makati and Jose Victor Ejercito of San Juan, and Caloocan Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio had also signified they would come.

Regalario said his group would try not to make the rally an "oust-GMA event."

"Of course, we cannot control those who will be speaking on stage," he said. "But we would really want to keep the atmosphere calm. We don't want provocative statements. We want no agitation."

He said the rally was meant only to show that on the anniversary of Independence Day, there was "more reason to mourn than to celebrate."

"The situation is getting worse," he said.

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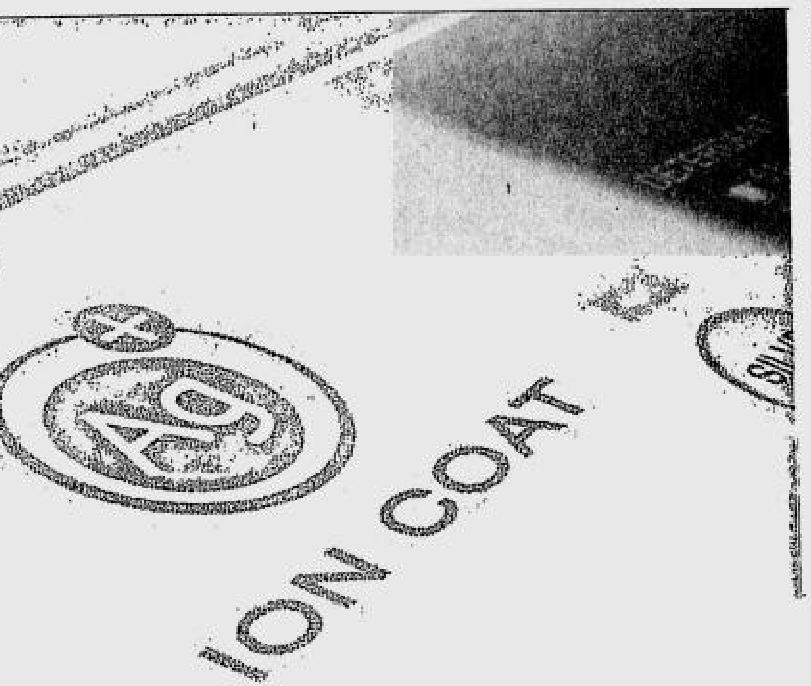

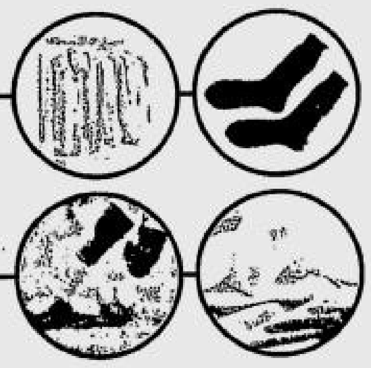

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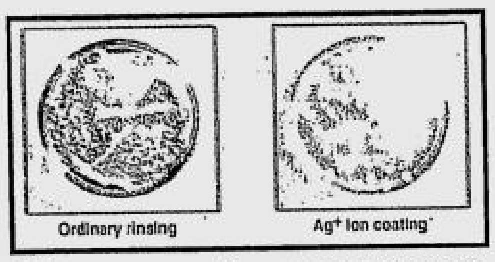
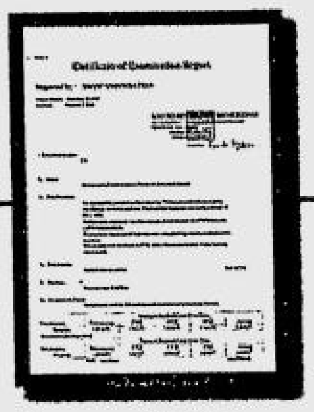
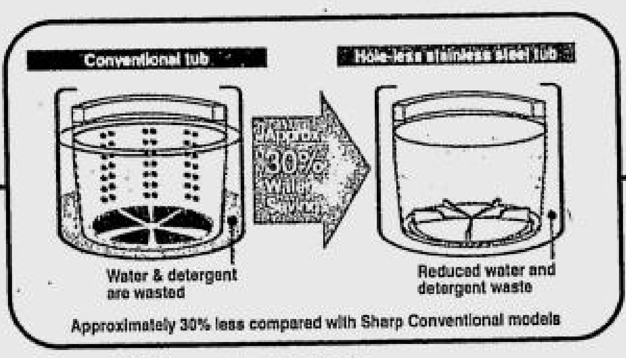


Kill more germs than regular rinsing!
In comparative tests, bacteria was placed on both normally-rinsed cloth and cloth coated by silver ions. After storing both fabrics for 18 hours at 37°C, test results prove Sharp's silver ion coating significantly reduces the growth of odor-causing bacteria.


Certificate of Examination Report

Proven effective by experts.
Proof of the anti-microbial power of Sharp's silver ion technology has been verified by the Kyoto Microorganism Lab, with its Test for Antibacterial Activity and Efficacy on Textile Products.


Conventional tub
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Water & detergent are wasted
Reduced water and detergent waste
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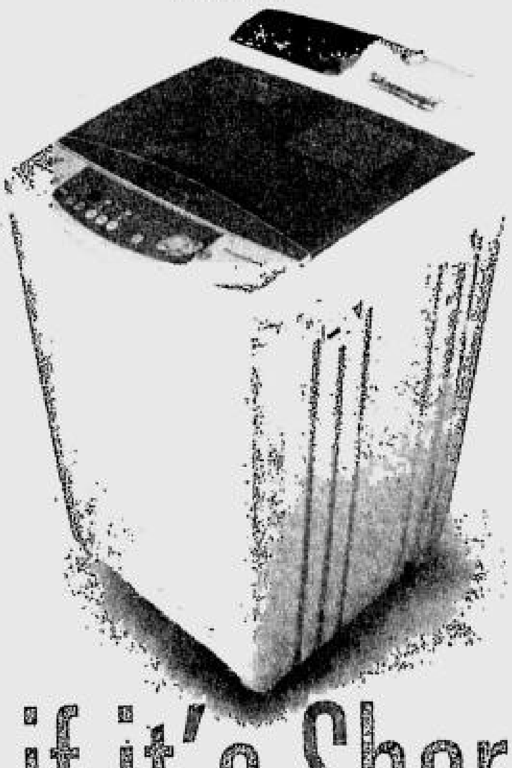
Hole-less Stainless Steel Tub+Ag+ions
Ag+ ions protect against the growth of black mold
Conventional resin tub with holes
Hole-less wall protects against black mold entering the tub
Black mold enters through the holes in the wall

Bye-bye black mold!
Most wash tubs have holes which allow the growth of black mold on clothes. Sharp's silver ion technology and new hole-less tub design work together to prevent the formation of black mold.



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INQBOX

Question of the Week

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Wycoco on Ong: 'Plotter with no credibility'

By Margaux Ortiz

A PLOTTER with no credibility.

This was how National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco described Samuel Ong, who was last assigned as the NBI Deputy Director for Technical Services.

"We do not believe him," Wycoco told the INQUIRER in a phone interview. "He does not have credibility at the NBI."

Wycoco said that as a former NBI official, Ong had often organized mass actions to support his ambition to be director of the bureau.

Wycoco added that Ong had even protested his appointment as NBI director.

"He has always been a plotter, wanting to take over as chief of the NBI," Wycoco said.

The NBI director said that when Ong was assigned to the Department of Justice Commission on the Settlement of Land Problems (Coslap), he joined the group of Horacio "Boy" Morales and participated in the presentation of "hooded but false" witnesses in Cebu land disputes.

He likewise joined protests against President Macapagal-Arroyo, Wycoco said, adding that Ong had been a supporter of the late Fernando Poe Jr. during the election.

"He has all the reasons to gripe," Wycoco said.

He stressed, "We are not surprised he came out now because he was so disgruntled at the NBI."

A lawyer, Ong served the bureau for more than 25 years, according to NBI Special Task Force chief Reynaldo Esmeralda. His appointment was not renewed by Ms Arroyo and lapsed shortly after the 2004 elections.

Esmeralda said Ong began his career as an NBI agent and was assigned in Jolo and Zamboanga for almost a decade. He then became chief of the bureau's Anti-Fraud and National Capital Region divisions before he became deputy director for intelligence.

"Ong was conditioned to be NBI director, but a clash of opinion with Director Wycoco ended that," Esmeralda said.

Lawmakers hit Gonzalez on tape

By Philip C. Tubeza

STOP terrorizing the media.

Lawmakers issued this call yesterday to Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez as they castigated him for threatening media outlets that air or distribute copies of the audio tape that allegedly contains wiretapped conversations of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero and Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla, chair of the House public information committee, said the press was acting within its rights in airing and distributing copies of the controversial tape.

"The DOJ [Department of Justice] seems bent on terrorizing the media by an implicit threat of investigations, filing of charges and arrest. It will be an exercise in futility as copies of the recorded calls have been circulated uncontrollably," said Remulla, whose committee will lead the House investigation next week on the audio tape.

"Also, I subscribe to the view that until a party involved claims that his or hers is the voice on the recording, it cannot be deemed as an illegal wiretap," he added.

So far, no one, including the President, had categorically said that they were the victims of the alleged wiretapping.

"What I am saying is that it is de facto part of the public domain and there is little that can be done to stop its distribution. Unless, of course, Secretary Gonzalez wants to turn the country into a police state," Remulla said.

Escudero said Gonzalez's threats were designed to "muzzle and silence the truth," adding that his actions also confirmed his bias for the President and her relatives.

A cover-up?

"What are they so afraid of? Why not let the people listen to it and decide for themselves. Why are they so afraid of the truth?" Escudero said.

"Secretary Gonzalez is already clearly lawyering for the President and her relatives and not for the nation and our people. We should just simply 'note' his threats and fight on in our search for the truth," he added.

Escudero said that the media should not be cowed by Gonzalez's threats and should continue airing the tapes.

"Otherwise, we will all be instruments of Gonzalez in this huge cover-up," he said.

The House committees on public information, national defense, public order and security, electoral reform and information technology are set to hold a joint investigation about the alleged wiretapping on June 15.

The usual suspects

Remulla said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, Commission on Elections commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, former Estrada lawyer Alan Paguia, Edgar Ruado, who is the chief of staff of Rep. Ignacio Arroyo and representatives from the National Bureau of Investigation, the National Telecommunications Commission and the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines would be invited.

"It will be the usual suspects ... We will try not to make this into a circus. I'm coordinating with the other committees on how to proceed with this," Remulla said.

"We want the Isafp invited to get testimony on intelligence gathering and if we have the technology or the gadgetry to [tap the President's conversations]," he added.

Escudero denied that the political opposition was behind the wire-tapping and said that it only wanted to "know the truth."

"We in the opposition stand for the truth, not destabilization. We stand for free speech, not for mudslinging," he said.

Target is not GMA

San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora said no one in the opposition had the capability to bug the President's conversations. He said that only the telecom companies, the Isafp, and the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force had such a capability.

"Obviously, none of us in the opposition has the capability of employing that kind of sophisticated equipment," Zamora said.

"[Bugging the President] requires too much planning, too much technical sophistication," he added.

Zamora also implied that the target of the wire-tapping might have been Garcillano and not the President. He noted that the audio tape had caught several other conversations of the man who was believed to be Garcillano.

"The description by members of the Cabinet that the President is the target may not be necessarily correct ... When we in fact looked at this, the target is the common denominator of these conversations ... [it's] not the President but in fact, the Comelec official whose name has already been repeated," he said.

'Mother of all tapes' surfaces

From page A1

tion between Ms Arroyo and Elections Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano. Garcillano has denied his is the voice of the male speaker in the wiretap.

Malacañang and Alan Paguia earlier this week released CDs containing the alleged telephone wiretaps purportedly showing that Ms Arroyo was pressing for a one million vote election victory. Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said release of the tapes was part of an opposition plot to destabilize Ms Arroyo's administration.

"This tape is the mother of all tapes circulating since Monday," Ong said, waving a cassette. He said the tape contains the hacked telephone conversation and challenged authorities to make an inventory of Isafp files and they will know that four master tapes are missing.

Asked about Ong's statement, Rear Adm. Tirso Danga, deputy chief of staff for intelligence, said there are no missing tapes in Isafp. "Wiretapping is not part of our job," he said.

Then just as reporters were beginning to throw their questions, Danga walked out of the room and left on board his van.

"If I won't come out with the truth, I pity the Filipino," Ong said.

SAMUEL ONG ERIK ARAZAS

Ong said he was not part of any political affiliation, though he was surrounded by opposition personalities during the press conference at the Metroclub in Makati City, often used by United opposition in its assemblies and meetings.

Cause of problems

"To GMA, I beg of you, resign now, for the good of the country. Because you are the cause of all our problems, the grave poverty, the corruption, you are the cause of all these. If you really love the country, resign, because if I come out with the rest of the tapes that I entrusted with worthy brothers, you may never be able to turn back," said Ong.

"The people know that you are not the President. They know that you are an illegitimate president, so resign for the sake of the country," said Ong.

Saying his revelation may cost him his life, Ong sought the protection of the Church for his safety.

"Now that I have come out, I am dead meat. They could do everything to me, and worse, they could even kill me," said Ong.

After answering a few questions, Ong was whisked away by opposition politicians in a dark green van. As his vehicle drove out of Metroclub's gates, some 200 opposition supporters cheered and chanted a call for Ms Arroyo to resign.

After he disappeared, news reports said that Ong had holed up at the San Carlos Seminary on Edsa. Several dozen politicians went to the seminary, along with reporters, but none of the opposition spokespersons were able to confirm Ong's presence there.

One opposition leader said Ong had requested that bishops keep watch over him, but none showed up at the seminary.

'Pirates' have 'GMA tapes' . . .

From page A1

and an election officer about vote-fixing in the 2004 national elections is now on CD.

Copies are in the hands of "pirates" supplying fake video and audio discs to vendors in Metro Manila.

Vendors based on Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City, on Thursday admitted they already had hundreds of copies ready for sale. But they had yet to actually sell them, fearing authorities would pressure them even more.

"We're really very careful," one male vendor told the INQUIRER. "This time it's different. It's already the President involved. We will surely go to jail if we're caught."

Vendors continue to peddle, on the sly, pirated VCDs and DVDs even after a series of raids by the Optical Media Board. They discreetly show buyers a catalogue of newly released titles. Discs are handed over only after payment is made.

Commonwealth Avenue is a known hot spot of fake discs, probably next only to Quiapo, Greenhills and Northmall in Caloocan.

Another vendor in the area said demand was high for the recording of Ms Arroyo's alleged phone conversation with Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

"Many of our customers have been looking for a copy," he said. "We just tell them that we already have copies but we're not selling them."

Demand for the Arroyo disc has reached the underground market even if MP3 versions and transcriptions are already available on the Internet.

And this spells more trouble for Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez who has been threatening to slap charges on media organizations "found to have caused the spread, the playing and the printing of the contents of a tape" of an alleged wiretapped conversation between Ms Arroyo and an election official about fixing the vote in the 2004 elections.

Gonzalez was noncommittal over suggestions that he first sue Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye who first made the tape available to Malacañang reporters last Sunday.

He said he would first go after INQ7.net, the online edition of the INQUIRER which reportedly made the tape available to Internet readers.

Leonard de Vera, incoming president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, yesterday said Gonzalez could not invoke the Anti-Wiretapping Law, noting that the President has yet to admit that it was her voice in the tape.

He said Garcillano, an Arroyo appointee to the Commission on Elections, also denied that he was the guy caught speaking allegedly with the President.

Arroyo supporter Gary Ruado had said he was unsure if it was his voice on the other end of the line, De Vera said.

"By threatening prosecution, Gonzalez is impliedly admitting that the voices on the tapes are those of GMA, Garcillano or Ruado, a matter Malacañang is trying hard, till now, to deny," he told the INQUIRER.

ADBOARD STATEMENT ON KBP'S DECISION TO WITHDRAW ITS MEMBERSHIP IN THE ADBOARD

Following the decision of the Kapisanan ng mga Broadkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP) to withdraw its membership in the AdBoard, we wish to state the following:

We respect KBP's right to decide what they believe to be the best course for their members given certain contentious issues that befuddle the broadcast industry. The larger interest, however, dictates that there is need to generate long-term strength by maintaining wholeness among parts, rather than degenerate into unassimilated parts drifting towards every which way.

Still, we view with apprehension the consequences of such withdrawal. The withdrawal effectively releases KBP members from the responsibility to adhere to AdBoard guidelines and breaks an important link in the system of self-regulation in the advertising industry. Nevertheless, we believe that AdBoard - with the abiding support and cohesiveness of its remaining members - shall continuously sustain its effectiveness in enforcing self-regulation within the industry.

The withdrawal impedes industry efforts to promote a higher sense of social responsibility among advertising practitioners. It happens at a time when the AdBoard has just launched an advocacy that aims to bring about a resurgence of respect for consumers. The program is envisioned to have far reaching impact in transforming knowledge, attitudes and practices in the industry that would result in promoting Filipino values. We could not afford this drawback when what the industry needs is the momentum to surge forward.

In the meantime, we have to manage with what we have, stay on track with the vision to look after the best interest of the consumer. We are thus keeping the doors open in the hope that after the dust settles, enlightenment shall follow and we could welcome our old comrades back to the fold again.

Finally, the AdBoard leadership looks at this development as a defining moment: it could either lead us to despair or catapult us to hope. Amid the bigger challenge of building a better society, we choose hope and make a firmer resolve among the remaining members all the more to close ranks and intensify efforts to pursue the initiatives we have begun.

RAUL S. ALVAREZ
Chairman

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Pimentel's 'resign' call premature, say GMA allies

From page A1

TRUNCHEONS and sticks fly as anti-riot policemen and militant groups calling for the ouster of President Arroyo clash near Malacañang.

REM ZAMORA

sies]. If [Ms Arroyo] sees it fit to resign, that is obviously one way that will lead to a peaceful end," Anzures said in a phone interview.

But to all these, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye had this reply: After you.

"Those who want the President to resign may go first if they wish, because the President plans to continue the work she has started," Bunye said in a statement. "[She] has not violated any law and is not charged with any crime."

Bunye also said Ms Arroyo's "detractors" had "no plan for the nation at all."

"Those who want her out want to set back fiscal stability and economic security and to throw the nation's economic engine in reverse. We will not allow these ambitious, noisy and selfish few to destroy what we have already built for this country," he added.

Precipitate call

Pimentel had said that Ms Arroyo should resign because she had lost her credibility and moral ascendancy to govern.

But in an interview with radio station dzBB, Santiago said the call for resignation was "precipitate, too premature."

She pointed out that Sandra Cam, a "jueteng" bagwoman who testified at the Senate inquiry the other day, did not accuse the President of receiving jueteng money but only her son and brother-in-law.

"There is no such thing as guilt by association," Santiago said. "Let's assume that what [Cam] said about the son and brother-in-law is true ... [But] it doesn't mean that the President is guilty of bribery as well."

Roxas echoed Santiago's view in a phone interview: "I think the calls for resignation are premature. Maybe 'premature' is not even the right word. These calls are baseless and more of wishful thinking on the part of those who want a regime change.

"There is no legal basis, no verified complaint [against the President], and up until Cam, it was all hearsay."

Protest actions

Roxas said he did not believe in speculations that the Arroyo administration was in a critical stage.

He said he had visited the Farmers Market in Cubao, Quezon City, and the public market in Cainta, Rizal, and found that the people were oblivious to the political controversies.

"The majority of our people are concerned about their livelihood and the prices of commodities. They just want their government to begin to attend to their needs," he said.

But Casiño said there would be "no stopping the protests that will expectedly snowball in the coming days and weeks."

He said that after the rally led yesterday by the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP), there would be other mass actions today and tomorrow, Independence Day.

Mariano said yesterday's farmer-led demonstration—which was forcibly dispersed by police—was the beginning of sustained street protests against the "morally and politically weak and bankrupt" Arroyo administration.

Organizers of the KMP rally said eight protesters were hurt and three were arrested; police said at least four officers were taken to hospital.

Police estimated that 500 people took part in the rally, but journalists at the site said up to 3,000 turned out.

Chinoy support

In the hue and cry, Ms Arroyo can count on the support of the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce Inc.

"If only we would allow President Arroyo to concentrate on her job of nation-building, we could also flourish like China," said Francis Chua, the organization's president, in response to her appeal for support in the face of calls for her resignation.

In a speech Thursday night during the pearl anniversary celebration of RP-China diplomatic ties, the President said: "I ask you movers and shakers of the Filipino-Chinese community, help me build one Philippines. ... [H]elp me challenge those who would want to foment more disunity in the Philippines."

Chua said politics had long been a distraction in this country—one of the reasons, he pointed out, why it had stagnated and China had flourished since the opening of diplomatic relations 30 years ago.

"Every time our economy is on the upswing, all negative issues come out to bring us back to square one. We should turn our attention and energy on nation-building rather than distractions," he said.

Chua said that while businessmen wanted all the issues facing Ms Arroyo resolved soon, these should be addressed in a sober way so as not to distract the country from more important goals.

Devastation

But the Kalikasan-PNE said in a statement that apart from the scandals swirling around Ms Arroyo, her administration was "a plunderer of [our] natural resources."

The participants of the 2nd National People's Conference on Mining in Antipolo, Rizal, said they would also join the "national day of mourning" rally.

"We are taking part to lament the devastation that the Arroyo administration's mining liberalization policy has caused upon the environment and the people," said Ces Quimpo, executive director of the Center for Environmental Concerns.

In its own statement, the MPSTA said it was one with other groups and sectors calling for the President's resignation.

"The government has shown abandonment of its responsibility to the education sector. Despite our series of mass actions, the proclaimed President has never shown genuine commitment to save our ailing educational system and grant us our legitimate economic demands," MPSTA president Benjamin Valbuena said.

According to Valbuena, the government continues "to pursue policies that have made things dramatically worse in the last four years."

"These include a continuous reduction in per capita spending on education, a brutal salary freeze for teachers and the prioritization of debt payments over education and other social services," he said.

Valbuena said that from consultations with MPSTA members, the "vast majority" had had enough of Ms Arroyo.

"The [people] have no option but to find ways to change this government as quickly as possible," he said, adding:

"In the coming weeks and months, we are prepared to support any group—whether from the religious sector, reformist elements of the military, or militant organizations—for as long as it is committed to carrying out basic reforms in education." *Reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana, Michael Lim Ubac, Gil Cabacungan Jr., Norman Bordadora, Alcuin Papa, TJ Burgonio, Philip C. Tubeza, AP*

True to his word . . .

From page A1

linking him to gambling payoffs.

Arriving at the Pampanga capitol at 11:17-a.m., the eldest son of President Macapagal-Arroyo went straight to the office of Assistant Provincial Prosecutor Bienvenido Bacani, where he lodged the complaint.

He asked for P5 million in moral damages—10 times the amount which Cam alleged she handed the lawmaker at the Congress' Session Hall as payoff for supposedly protecting jueteng operations.

Arroyo also demanded exemplary damages of P500,000 and another P100,000 for attorney's fees and other costs.

Vice Gov. Joseller Guiao, nine of 22 Pampanga mayors, other local officials and more than 100 people carrying placards swore support for the 36-year-old congressman.

Six pages of the eight-page complaint contained the transcripts of Cam's exclusive interview aired on ABS-CBN's TV Patrol World.

In that interview, Cam claimed giving P500,000 to Arroyo and another P400,000 to his uncle, Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio Arroyo.

'That woman'

The following day, Cam gave the same testimony at the Senate's hearing on the jueteng controversy.

"That woman," was how Arroyo called Cam in the press briefing held after Bacani administered to him the oath for the complaint.

In his complaint, Arroyo said that in the interview, Cam's "declarations and accusations are malicious, injurious and defamatory."

These, he added, were "made on a television program seen and heard nationwide and simulcast nationwide on the radio station dzMM, as well as beamed in various parts of the world through the Filipino Channel..."

Arroyo's lawyer, Grace Mercy Maduramente, said ABS-CBN was not made a party to the case. When she made the interview, Cam was not covered by the immunity provided by the Senate for state witnesses, Maduramente said.

Explaining the legal action, Arroyo told reporters: "Today I took a bold step in clearing my name because I owe this not only to my family and more importantly I owe this to the people I represent, to the Kapampangans because my name has been besmirched and I would not allow this."

The court, he added, was the proper venue to ferret out the truth.

Dig out the truth

He filed the case nine days after former Transportation Assistant Secretary Rene Maglanque, former Minalin Vice Mayor Arturo Naguit and his friend Leo Katigbak filed separate complaints of libel and perjury against the first of the jueteng whistle-blowers, Wilfredo Mayor.

Of Cam's claims that she handed the amount directly to him while he was attending a House session, Arroyo said this was "highly impossible."

He said security personnel in Congress bans visitors from approaching lawmakers while they are in session and that visitors are required to register in a logbook, he said.

Logbook as proof

These security measures, he pointed out, would "point out the truth."

"When we checked the logbook in the whole month of December, there was no Sandra Cam or any of her aliases [registered in the logbook]," Arroyo said.

Now that he filed the case, he said he would "like to refocus myself on being a good legislator."

"It's time to rise these times and make sure that the economic gains and fiscal reforms we have enacted in Congress are translated into projects for our barangays," he said.

Asked how the President had been taking all these developments, he said his mother "is focused and not affected."

"Our conversation with the President surrounds issues regarding our constituents, in making lives better for the multitudes," Arroyo said.

To charity

He said he would donate to charitable institutions the P5 million that he expected to get from moral damages claims.

Arroyo said he filed the case in Pampanga, not in Manila or in Bicol, where Cam is from, because "this is where my constituents are."

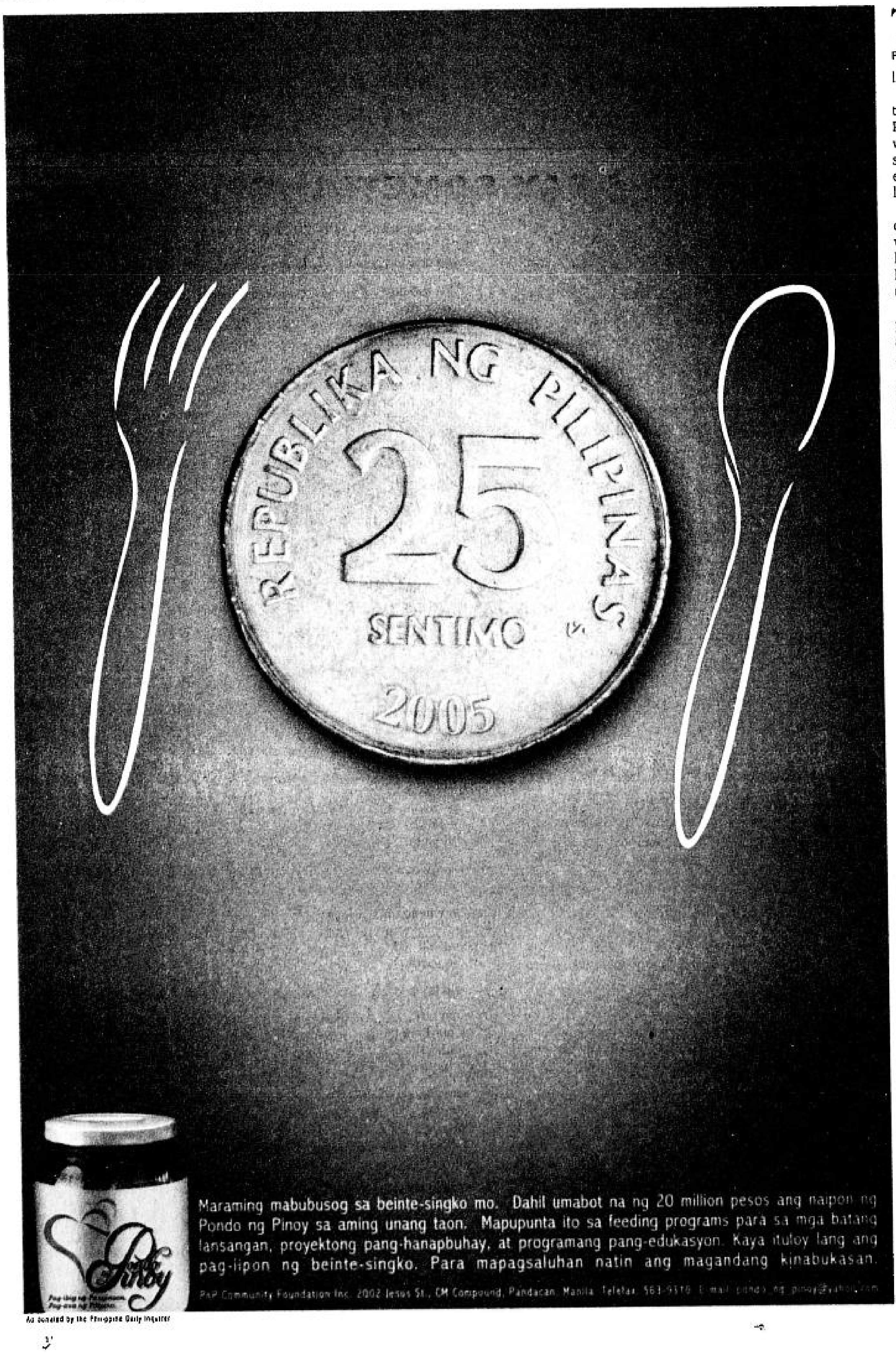
"Even above my obligation to my family, I feel it is my obligation to clear my name in front of the people of Pampanga," he added.

He said he was "very confident" that the Senate proceedings would "clear my name."

Arroyo said he would have loved to appear in the Senate hearing but had second thoughts because of what happened to Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Villafuerte.

"Our friend [Villafuerte] was treated rudely, with all his good intentions. That's why I think there's parliamentary courtesy to avoid these things," he said.

Repeating his mother's line, Arroyo said the jueteng scandal was not only the downside of Philippine politics but also "part of a grand design to destabilize our government."



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Vehicle in Makati shooting recovered

By Tarra V. Quismundo

INCHING closer to their suspect, police released yesterday artist's sketches of the gunman who killed a television director and wounded seven others in a shooting rampage in Makati City early Wednesday morning.

"We got the description from witnesses who were around him when the shooting occurred. They said he was wearing dark glasses when they saw him in the bar," said Senior Supt. Jovito Gutierrez, Makati Police Department chief.

The gunman killed television director Luis Santiago, 27, outside Venezia or V-Bar in Ayala Center at 4:10 a.m. Wednesday.

Witnesses described the gunman, known only as Oliver, as between 30 to 40 years old, and roughly 5-foot-10. He also reportedly had a thin frame and sunken cheeks.

Yesterday, police took custody of a frosted mocha-colored Toyota Hi-Lux pick-up with plate number XTW-280 which was reportedly used by the gunman in his escape.

The vehicle was turned over by one Estrella Angeles, of 34 Cambridge Street, Hillsborough Subdivision, Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Angeles is the mother of registered owner Charito Angeles, who was abroad, according to police.

ALIEN TRADERS AS TARGET

Cops bust BI syndicate

By Luige A. del Puerto

A SYNDICATE that operated within the Bureau of Immigration preying mostly on foreign businessmen has been busted by police recently.

The Presidential Anti-Crime Emergency Response (Pacer) team arrested on June 6 immigration agents Arsenio Cantada, 40, and Amando Talatala, 39; their cohorts Robespierre Caparas, 34, a driver, and Mario Mejico, 50, a BI utility worker, and Linda Ong, reportedly the group's interpreter.

The suspects allegedly extorted P300,000 from Taiwanese Chen Rong Yun, 55, and Chen Uro Yun, 50, businessmen based in Candelaria, Iba, Zambales.

Assistance

Relatives of the businessmen sought the assistance of police after the suspects apprehended them in Subic on Sunday on charges that one of them was a "fugitive" from Taiwan.

The suspects agreed to release them for P300,000, police said.

On June 6, Pacer agents caught up with the unsuspecting BI agents and their companions in Intramuros, Manila.

Chen Rong Yun was rescued in the entrapment operation.

Seized during the operation were two cars, several handguns, and BI identification cards which turned out to be fake, according to police.

Two hours later, Chen Uro Yun was released unharmed in a bus terminal in Pasay City, also by BI agents identified as Nasser Hadjiwahid and Andman Mangundato. The two agents remain at large.

Recovered vehicle

Two days later, Pacer agents recovered Chen Rong Yun's vehicle in Malolos, Bulacan.

The car was taken from the businessman when he was nabbed on Sunday.

Pacer's Senior Supt. Prudencio Banas said the mission order that the arrested BI agents used against the Taiwanese was "spurious."

Mission order

But the suspects maintained that the mission order was genuine. "One of them was a fugitive from Taiwan, and we acted based on a mission order," BI agent Arsenio Cantada told reporters.

Police authorities were awaiting official word from the immigration bureau on the status of the two Taiwanese at press time.

Let's do it the legal and constitutional way

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE TIMES call for calm and sobriety.

The citizenry should be calm and thinking because blind anger leads to rash judgment.

Let's do away with the so-called people power uprising, like Edsa 1 and Edsa 2, to change the present leadership because it will lead to more uprisings later.

Edsa 1 led to Edsa 2; Edsa 2 to the failed Edsa 3. One people power uprising led to the other, with so many failed coup attempts and military mutinies in between.

We made a mistake replacing our leaders through Edsa 1 and Edsa 2. Let's admit it: Edsa 1 and Edsa 2 fostered the rule of the mob.

The height of anarchy took place during Edsa 1, 2 and 3. The only difference between Edsa 1 and 2, on the one hand, and Edsa 3, on the other, is that the first two were successful anarchies, while the third was a failure.

If we, the citizens, think that our present leadership cheated in the polls or failed in its governance, let's do it the legal and constitutional way.

The legal way is through impeachment. Or a snap election, this time with a Commission on Elections that will not take sides.

That's the way of democracy that this country claims to embrace.

***

What's to blame for our state of affairs? The military's lack of discipline.

Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Lt. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos breached the dam of military discipline when they led the Edsa 1 revolution.

The military was never the same again after Edsa 1. The military establishment now thinks that it is the fourth branch of government—in addition to the executive, legislative and judiciary.

The military mindset that it is supreme over the civilian population was born during the unlamented martial law years. But Marcos held the military in place.

It was during the Aquino administration that the military became spoiled. Euphoric over the newfound freedom, the Cory Aquino government gave the military establishment power over civilians when the new Constitution gave it the role of "protector of the people."

Now, every Tom, Dick and Harry in the military thinks of staging a coup or mutiny whenever he thinks the government failed in its job.

When we have surpassed the present crisis, let's have a Charter change where the military will just be relegated to the place of protecting the republic from internal and external aggression.

And let's not treat the military establishment like a spoiled brat by giving in to its tantrums!

Traffic chokes Manila streets

By Margaux C. Ortiz

SIMULTANEOUS activities and celebrations in Manila caused unusually heavy traffic in the city yesterday, Western Police District director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong said.

Bulaong said hundreds of members of the farmers' group Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas who held rallies on Morayta Street and España Boulevard caused traffic jams in the area.

Police said five policemen were hurt during the rally which began at about 9 a.m. and ended four hours later.

Hundreds of Black Nazarene devotees who flocked to the Quiapo church, and the celebration of the Supreme Court's 104th anniversary added to the traffic slowdown.

Bulaong also said that the closure of a portion of Roxas Boulevard due to the final rehearsal of Independence Day activities at the Quirino Grandstand also contributed to the traffic jams.

The Western Police District has deployed 1,250 policemen to secure the city during the Independence Day rites tomorrow.

Bulaong said the civil military parade, which had been traditionally held in the afternoon, would be held after the flag-raising ceremony at 8 a.m.

At the Eastern Police District, security would be tightened at the Pinaglabanan Shrine in San Juan and the Edsa Shrine.

ARCHBISHOP CRUZ, MAY I SAY SOMETHING?

The Senate hearings on the alleged jueteng payola leave me unconvinced for the simple reason that the so-called witnesses presented have only zeroed in on those belonging to this administration.

With all due respect to Archbishop Cruz, I honestly believe that he is very sincere about his advocacy of fighting the jueteng menace. I do not doubt him a bit - not because he is "a man of the cloth" for it is no guarantee that "a man of the cloth" is all perfect and all-knowing.

I would like to rely more on the kind of person wearing the cloth, rather than the cloth itself.

Neither do I know Archbishop Cruz personally nor have I ever met him. All I can say is that I perceive him to be really, truly and honestly committed to end the illegal jueteng which to him has become the root of all evil in our society. I agree with him. However, I would like to go farther on a personal note that jueteng, if I may add, was and is one of the causes of poverty in our country for it is indeed a very invasive numbers game, so invasive as to lure many people pati na mga kabataan to gamble away the little money they have.

But jueteng is not alone, and cannot be blamed the sole cause of poverty. It, however, contributes to the impoverishment of millions of our people. Without it, they could learnto save and learn as well to make a living for the betterment of their families in the form of putting food on their tables and in meeting their other basic needs.

Even the members of the so-called middle class have suffered a beating in the pre-need industry for which the private sector is to blame rather than the government.

To make things worse, the pyramid scam of Baladjay and other groups like hers had crippled so many innocent people who lost their lifetime savings. Again, this was caused by the private sector, not by the government.

Our people do not realize that changes in lifestyle can lead to hardships. Take for example the cellphone craze. Even the not so poor have been further impoverished by it.

It is said that we are now the texting capital of the world. And we can believe that, knowing the Filipino psyche.

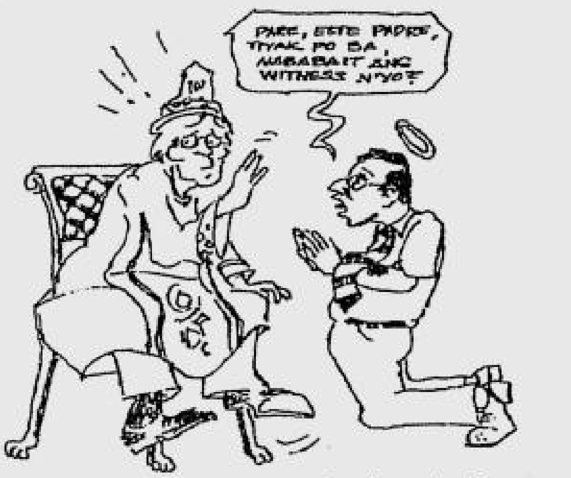
We accept that cellphones are a necessity nowadays and no longer a luxury. Communication is vital for a society to be progressive. But the problem lies in the way we abuse it.

Texting has almost become a vice, an addiction worst than cigarette smoking. Text messages are no longer used to communicate but to gossip, to spread wild rumors, to make love, to quarrel and insult, to vilify, to pass on unnecessary messages. All these cost money and to those who cannot afford it is a big drain on their finances.

Accept it or not, this too has contributed a great deal to our people's hardship. Again, it is not the fault of the government but of the private sector whose companies I amnot blaming. I am simply stating a fact.

All those only show that the Filipinos are suckers when it comes to vices. They are easy preys. That is why, we must all help in protecting our fellowmen in any way we can through sound advice, conscientization and moral suasion. So many are being taken advantage of that they already seem helpless.

Sino pa ba ang dapat magmalasakit sa ating kapwa kundi tayo rin. Nobody else will care for us except ourselves.


PARE, ESTE PADRE, TIYAK PO BA, MABABAIT ANG WITNESS N'YO?

That's why I know where Archbishop Cruz is coming from.

But, Archbishop, a convent-bred or seminary-bred individual can be a perfect prey to the more worldly ones whose backgrounds we may say have been rather undesirable all their lives.

This, Archbishop, is what I fear for you. You can be swallowed by some people whose backgrounds have been shady and less than upright and who are used to playing the rough and tumble game dressed in sheep's clothing.

I have one request to make from the good Archbishop:

Make your campaign against the jueteng more holistic in nature. To me, it is somewhat unfair for your movement to zero in on those your group perceives to be receiving "payolas" from jueteng now.

Your witnesses-informers attested that they've been involved in jueteng as far back as two decades ago. If that is true as they've professed, then allow them to go back in time. Tell them to inform the Filipino people about everyone who had been involved as far as they can remember. Tell us who were the crooks during the Marcos era, the Cory, Ramos and Estrada administrations on to this administration, to be fair, believable and credible.

For these witnesses-informers to limit the scope of their information to those they say are involved NOW leaves much to be desired. If, indeed, your intention is to clean up our society of menace of jueteng, tell your witnesses-informers to tell us everything from at least the '80s to the present. In so doing, we can get a better picture of how many politicians in this country have been corrupted. Only then can we see the gravity of the jueteng structure. And as a consequence, the Senate can better appreciate the full extent of the jueteng tentacles – in aid of legislation, not summary "execution".

To let those involved in the past get away with it reeks of dishonesty and hypocrisy. That is why, and I will tell you now, many doubt the true objective of your advocacy because it is half-baked. A general confession from your witnesses-informers would have been truly more effective. It would also have been good for their souls.

Your witnesses-informers, Archbishop, are old enough to remember what was happening prior to 2001. How come they never said about who they were dealing with then – if they are truly honest and credible. I dare them for that will show that they are not taking sides.

Our people know who those people were. They are now enjoying their ill-gotten wealth but are easily getting away with it. It is the incompleteness of the testimonies that leaves us all cold.

We see so many familiar faces who were on the take just some years back, now strutting like royal peacocks. And people ask why? Di ba may mga kasalanan din sila? Bakit walang nagsasalita?

That is why, many, many others aside from me are asking the same questions. This, too, Archbishop, causes many people to suspect that your group is out to destabilize the present government.

Wala po tayong magagawa, Archbishop. The proceedings as conducted now make many of us doubt the real motive because many of our questions are left unanswered, such as:

1. Who were on the take prior to 2001?
2. Who were the important figures involved then and how money changed hands?
3. Who among the living and the dead, active in public service then and now; and those retired were ever involved? And where are they now?
4. Were the same witnesses-informers now also the ones delivering the "lagays"? Who were they dealing with in the past regimes?

Archbishop, to be selective about it is unfair, unchristian, improper, uncouth, untruthful and hypocritical.

Just those questions that I've propounded, Archbishop, are what we, observers to this telenovela now being shown to us from the Senate are hoping for to be answered.

Let's have a complete, honest to goodness expose, please. Tell your witnesses-informers to give the people the beginning and the ending and not leave the public hanging in suspense. We, too, know much more than we see and hear. The script is not complete.

The investigation to be better appreciated must be in the likes of the "Ten Commandments," not "Gone with the Wind."

Only in so doing, Archbishop, can we say that you and your group "Samahan Laban sa Jueteng" can be fully appreciated for that will remove any semblance of bias – if you can accede to this request.

And let me make myself very clear:

I am not trying to defend anyone, Archbishop. Please just accord me the courtesy of displaying a certain amount of intelligence, breeding and propriety – even if only out of charity from your kind heart.

And please, Archbishop, do not be offended. Do not get angry with me. And don't ever even try to answer me back for as a "man of the cloth," you are compelled to turn the other cheek because of your sacred vow of humility – something I am not committed to.

Please try to see the merit of my prayer.

Respectfully yours in Christ,

(Sig) **Manuel "Manoling" Morato**
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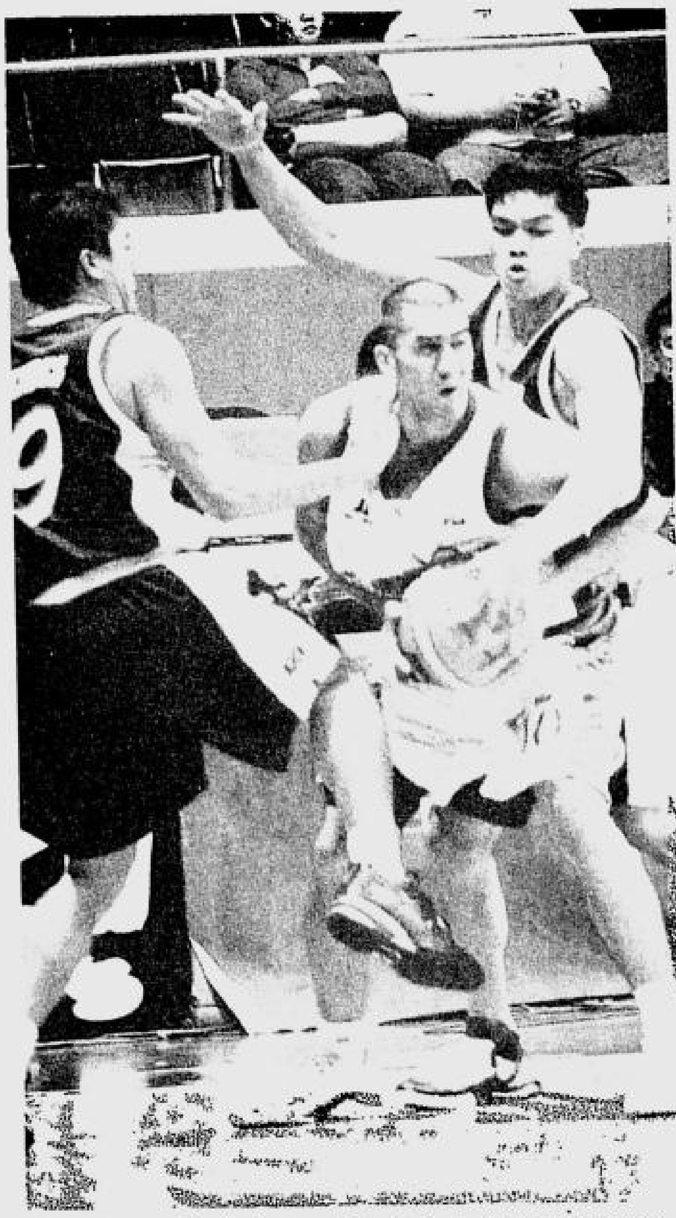
Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Duncan still the man as Spurs beat Pistons /A28

- Tyson tips scales at 233 pounds vs McBride /A28

- Sorenstam a shot off /A28
- Welcoat guns for 2-0 vs Montaña /A27



RICH Alvarez of Shell tries to wiggle out of a double team put up by Kenneth Duremdes and Nelbert Omolon of Sta. Lucia. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Turbochargers force rubber with Realtors

By June Navarro

SHELL treated what could have been its farewell game of the season with a sense of urgency and turned back Sta. Lucia Realty, 85-74, last night in the Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

Rich Alvarez sizzled with 16 points while grabbing seven rebounds and Ronald Tubid pumped in 12 of his 16 markers in a fourth-quarter Shell upheaval that erased Sta. Lucia's double-digit lead three-fourths of the way.

Tubid buried a three-pointer and had seven points in a 17-0 assault that wiped out an 11-point Shell deficit and boosted the Turbochargers to a 67-61 advantage in just four minutes of play in the final frame.

The ninth-ranked Turbochargers forced a sudden-death encounter against the No. 4 Realtors tomorrow.

In the other game, Jeffrey Cariaso tossed in 24 points and Stephen Padilla added a career-high 18 points on six-of-nine shooting from the three-point range as Alaska slammed the quarterfinal door on Coca-Cola with a runaway 86-66 victory.

The Aces advanced to the best-of-three quarterfinals against the winner of the Red Bull Barako-Barangay Ginebra wildcard pairing.

"We improvised a pressing defense to eliminate Sta. Lucia's advantage in the shaded lane," said Shell coach Leo Austria. "I'm sure they (Realtors) will find ways to adjust. But with only a day to spare before the game, it will not be enough and we're going to take advantage of that."

After missing their first six shots from the field, Ryan Fletcher finally ended the Realtors' shooting slump with a three-point play off Billy Mamaril following a goal-tending by Tubid midway in the fourth quarter.

But Roger Yap and Chris Calaguio joined the scoring fray, combining for 11 points down the stretch as Shell lived for another day.

Billy Mamaril scattered 14 points and had 11 rebounds while Ajani Williams, who rode the bench at the height of the Turbochargers' decisive rally, finished with 12 points and plucked 11 boards.

Shell's victory came a day after four of its players almost came to blows in practice.

Adonis Sta. Maria and Carlo Sharma reportedly engaged Billy Mamaril in a shoving match inside the paint. Calaguio joined the scuffle when he tried to prevent Sharma from blowing

TURBOCHARGERS/ A27

Court rules Asi a Filipino; PBA clams up

THE COURT of Appeals has upheld the Filipino citizenship of Talk 'N Text basketball player Pauliasi Taulava in a decision that also prohibits the Department of Justice and the Bureau of Immigration from effecting his deportation through summary proceedings.

The three members of the court's seventh special division dismissed the appeal of the DOJ to reverse a decision of the Manila Regional Trial Court that permanently enjoins the government from deporting Taulava.

The Philippine Basketball Association withheld comment on the court's decision. The league suspended Taulava from playing in the league last year due to the DOJ findings that he falsified his Filipino citizenship.

The appelate court's decision was penned by Associate Justice Vicente Q. Roxas and concurred in by Associate Justices Porita Aliña-Hormachuelos and Rosmari D. Carandang.

In their decision, the justices declared that "Taulava's natural-born citizenship was already recognized by the BID's [Bureau of Immigration and Deportation's] Board of Commissioners, which enjoys the presumption of regularity in the performance of their duties."

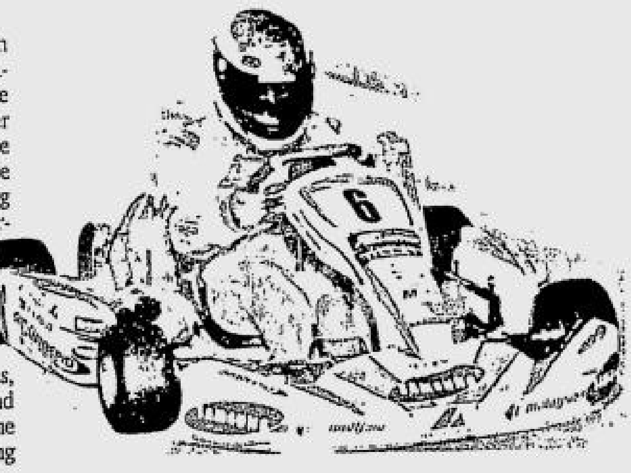
Hence, the appellate court said, "any-

COURT/ A26

TAULAVA: All clear?

ASIAN OPEN

RP karters take front row for today's heats



CARMONA, Cavite—Asian karting queen Michele Bumgarner of M&M Racing took the first step in her bid to keep her crown when she topped the time trials yesterday of the 2005 Shell Asian Open Karting Championships at the Carmona Circuit Philippines here.

The 16-year-old Bumgarner, daughter of an American businessman and a Filipina from Zambales, clocked 42.761 seconds around the 1.3-km track to claim the pole in today's three qualifying heats of the FIA-CIK event sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines.

Reigning Karter of the Year Matteo Guidicelli of the Cebu Racing Group will be starting beside Bumgarner as he posted the second best time of 42.919.

Top Indonesian bet Ryan Anthony Monoarfa clinched third spot, clocking 49.992 seconds while Indy Villalon of Birel-Fila and Daniel Mark Bumgarner of M&M Racing were fourth and fifth with clockings of 43.054 and 43.572, respectively.

However, Guidicelli may have to work harder to achieve his bid for a title double after he only placed third in the Rotax Max Seniors class qualifying, clocking 45.12.

Hong Kong's Ross Jamison topped the class with a time of 44.823, just a breath off Guidicelli's teammate Ivan Carapiet, who timed 44.982.

Last year's Veterans division champion Marcel Thenu was fourth with 45.191, followed by JP Carino with 45.214.

Malaysian Jazeman will take No. 1 spot in the grid in the Rotax Max Juniors with his time of 45.077 seconds. Marty Aguilar of Bosch-Intelco was second after clocking 45.357.

Marlon Stockinger was third in the Rotax Juniors with 45.416, followed by Rio Haryanto of Indonesia and Jean Marcelo with times of 45.898 and 46.047, respectively.

Vencer Suba, only 10, will be the country's top bet in the Cadet 60 class with a time of 54.604 seconds. JeT Racing's Tomas Cabili (55.045) and last year's champion Roman Carlo Academia (55.302) will start second and third, respectively.

But foreign bets dominated the Cadet 85 class in the event sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, Denso Iridium Power, Bridgestone, Vivere Suite Hotel and Palmer Asia and supported by Addict Mobile, DMCI Homes, Eastway Motorcycle Racing, Aeromed and Aviva Insurance.

Andrew Tang of Singapore took the pole with a time of 48.902 while Mitchell Gilbert of Malaysia and Dustin Sofyan of Indonesia were second and third, respectively, with times of 49.139 and 49.185.

Sunday's races will be shown live on Channel 23 starting at 10:30 a.m. for the first race and 2:30 p.m. for the second race. Race enthusiasts can log on to www.mypad.net.

MICHELLE Bumgarner walks back to the paddock after turning in the fastest time (top) yesterday.

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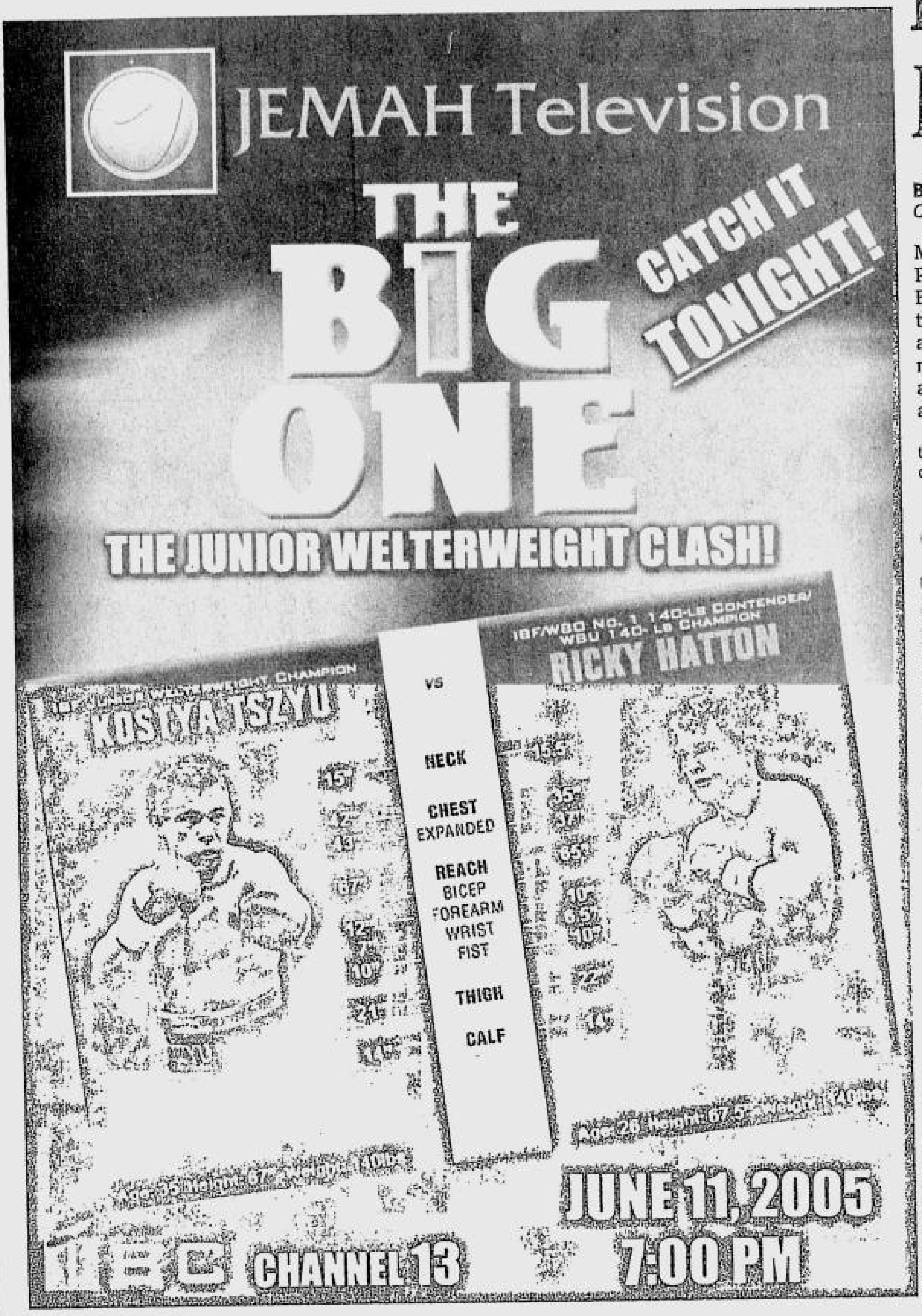
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Bautista battles Mexican tonight

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

MANDAUE CITY—Reigning WBO Asia Pacific bantamweight king Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista puts his reputation on the line tonight when he goes up against Mexico's Gilberto Bolanos in the mainer of the "El Gran Combate" card at the 6,000-capacity Mandaue Cultural and Sports Complex.

"I came here to win, not to fall down," said the veteran Mexican, who is the first from his country to see action in Cebu.

The unbeaten Bautista tipped the scales at 118.50 lbs, while Bolanos came in at 119 lbs during official weigh-in at the ALA Gym supervised by GAB officer Rolando Mendoza yesterday.

Viva Sports will cover the fight and air it on Sunday starting at 1 p.m.

Bautista, the 18-year-old from Candijay, Bohol, vowed not to disappoint his legion of fans.

Tonight's card also includes debut fights of three new members of the ALA Boys—Rey Caitom, AJ Banal, and Rashid Bacus.

The card also pits Bert Batawang against Elmer Muyco; Caesar Amonsot versus Jun Paderna; Robert Allanic against Orlan Enriquez; Japanese Nori Iwatanai versus Cris Alag; and John Carlos against Villy Bullecer.

Court rules Taulava a Filipino ...

From page A25

one who questions his citizenship has the burden of proving his allegations. This can only be done by filing an appropriate action in a court of competent jurisdiction because, in our jurisdiction, an attack on a person's citizenship may only be done through direct action for its nullity."

Taulava's lawyer, Eduardo Francisco, hailed the decision of the CA as a vindication of the rights of Taulava.

"With this decision of the CA and the official documents submitted by Taulava to the National Bureau of Investigation and the DOJ, this will consitute a reversal of the DOJ resolution which was the basis for the suspension of Taulava by the PBA," Francisco said.

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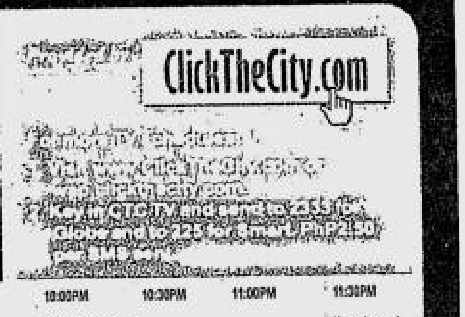
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Nickelodeon	Girls In Love	Naturally Sadie	As Told By Ginger	Brick: Unfabulous (Nick's All Grown Up My Dad The Rock Star Drake & Josh)				Danny Phantom	My Life As A Teenage Robot	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	Sabrina, The Teenage Witch	Cow At The Moo-vies	Girls In Love	Naturally Sadie	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys
MYX		Urban MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	My MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX	MYX Presents		Pops	MYX Remixes	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	Mobile MYX Top Picks	Club MYX	OPM MYX		MYX Live!	
ETC		Saturday Night Live		Who Wants To Marry My Dad 2		Joan Of Arcadia		The O.C.		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Last Comic Standing		Saturday Night Live		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
Cinema One	Beautiful Life				Wala Na Bang Pag-ibig								Boy Negro				Mahorosa		
Studio 23								Sports TV	Mr. Bean	Survivor		The Bachelorette		Gilmore Girls	Studio 23 Present				Reel Deal
AXN									[illegible]	20 Seconds to Fame	Mondo Magic	TNA Xplosion		CSI: NY (Season I)		Cops			
Star World		Totally Outrageous Behavior	Weird TV	Miami Vice		Monk		Roswell		Enterprise				Daredevil: Shattering The Record				The Kumars At No. 42	Arrested Development
CNN	World Business This Week	World News	People In The News	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News	Inside The Middle East	World News	Design 360	World News	The Daily Show John Stewart Global Edition	World News	World Sport	World News	Talk Asia	World News	Diplomatic License
National Geographic		Big Bite Nite				Big Cat Challenge		Creature Feature				Be The Creature		The Snake Wranglers	Wildlife Diary	Big Bite Nite			
Solar Sports				TV Shopping					GWSE 2005	Philippine-Cuba Goodwill Games					WNBA Game Charlotte @ Detroit				NBA TV Daily
Lifestyle Network	Carol Duvall	HGTV Special		Radical Sabbatical	Road & Track	Genuine Article	Food Fight	Date Plate	Emeril Live		Nigella Bites	How Do I Look		NY Fashion Week	Modern Girl's Guide	E! True Hollywood Story		Look For Less	Behind The Velvet Ropes
HBO				Anger Management (4:05PM)				The Clinic (5:50PM)			Tango & Cash (7:20PM)			Taking Lives			Six Feet Under 51 Untitled (10:40PM)		Cradle 2 The Grave (11:35PM)
Star Movies		Bulletproof Monk (3:15PM)				Sense And Sensibility					Jeepers Creepers (7:25PM)			Madhouse			Alien 3 (10:35PM)		
Cartoon Network		Police Academy	The Detective Squad	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	Winx Club	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Teen Titans	Hadji's Song				Power Rangers Ninja Storm	Duck Dodgers	Codename Kids Next Door	Fantastic Four	Swat Kats
Disney Channel	Recess	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Lizzie Mcguire	Wicked Science	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	That's So Raven	American Dragon	Phil Of The Future	America's Funniest Home Video	Zenon: Girl Of The 1st Century			Zenon: The Zequel			Chip N Dale's Rescue Ranger	Lizzie Mcguire	
Cinemax			Elmore Leonard's Gold Coast (3:45PM)				Cunning Manoeuvre				Lightning Bolts Of Destruction (7:20PM)			Nothing In Common				Timecop: The Berlin Decision	
Discovery Channel		Human Discovery		Superstructures		Extreme Machines		Hour China		Wild Discovery				The New Detectives		Mummy Autopsy		Extreme Discovery	
MTV Philippines			Carmen & Dave	Whatever Things	Making the Video Don't Phunk with My Honey	MTV Urban Beats	Dismissed	Room Raiders	Tailgators	One Bad Trip	PunkD	MTV Hits						MTV Live Post Jam at Madison Square Garden (Pt 1)	
Sports Plus			French Open '05 Quarterfinals				Nopi Tunerversion					World Greatest Auto Show							

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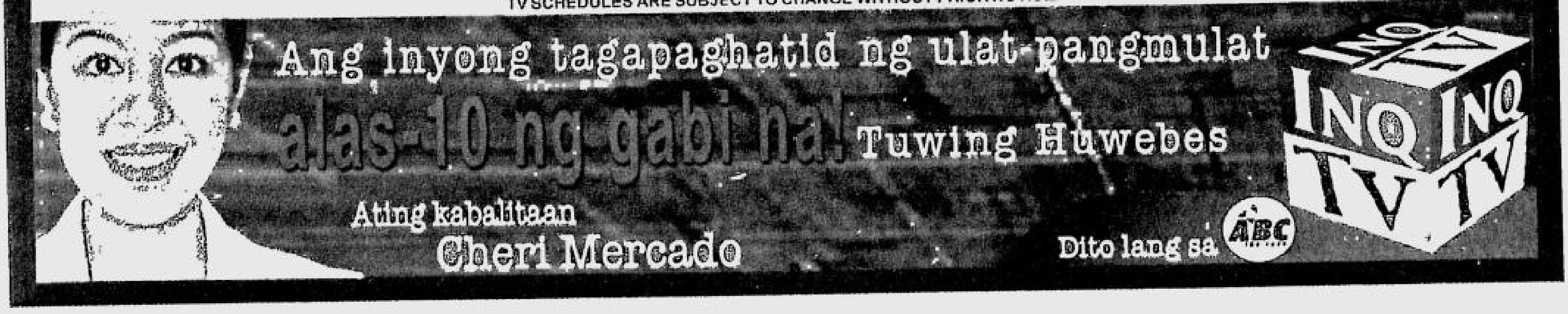

Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV

Welcoat guns for 2-0 vs Montaña

MONTANA'S Robert Sison

ALTHOUGH the Game 1 playoff winner—going by PBL finals records—usually goes on to win the series, Welcoat coach Caloy Garcia was quick to point out the Paintmasters' ill-fated championship stint in the last conference.

GAMES TODAY (*Cuneta Astrodome*)
2 p.m.—Achievement awards
3:30 p.m.—Montaña vs Welcoat
(Game 2 of best-of-five finals)

The Paintmasters also took the title series opener then, but the Montaña Jewels eventually claimed the PBL Open championship.

Thus, Welcoat will endeavor to sustain its momentum this time when it battles Montaña in Game 2 of the Unity Cup finals at 3:30 p.m. today at the Cuneta Astrodome.

"Forget the first game, that's our approach," said Garcia as Welcoat shoots for a 2-0 lead in the best-of-five series. "It will be like a do-or-die every game."

Earlier at 2 p.m., the league will honor its best players with Montaña's Jon Dan Salvador, last conference's Most Valuable Player, Welcoat's Anthony Washington, Magnolia's Arwind Santos, Granny Goose's JR Quiñahan and Harbour Centre's Mac Cardona all vying for the top individual plum.

Welcoat narrowly escaped with an 82-80 decision of Montaña in Game 1 last Thursday.

Garcia expects Game 2 to be just as tight as the opener.

"The players were tired but I told them we have no time to relax," said Garcia after the opening win. "If you relax, you give the other team a chance."

Since 2002, only two teams failed to bag the title after winning Game 1.

The Jewels, though, haven't lost two straight games this conference. And as coach Robert Sison said recently, bouncing back from a loss is what his team does best.

The Montaña stars made their presence felt in Game 1 with Alex Compton firing a game-high 25 points and Salvador delivering 23 points and 10 rebounds.

None of their teammates, however, scored more than six points.

"We wanted to stop their shooters," said Garcia.

In contrast, Welcoat exploited its balanced attack to the hilt.

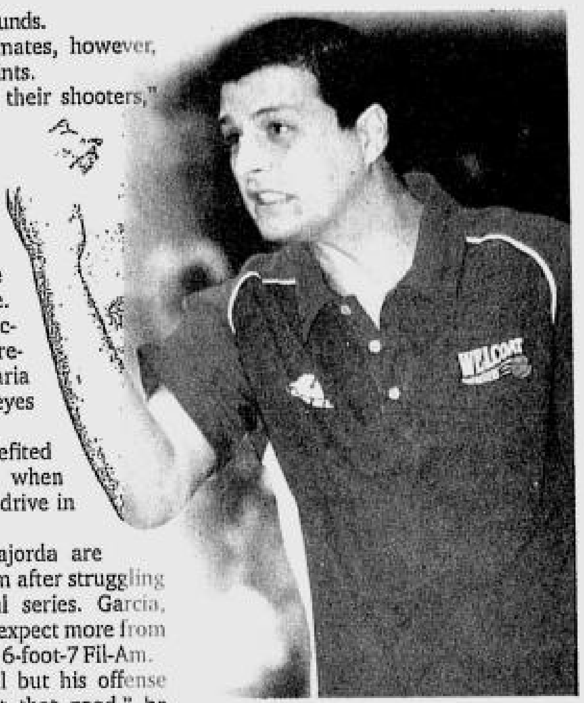
Leo Najorda and Washington carried the Paintmasters' offense with 14 points apiece. Stepping up for the second game in a row, reserve Erwin Sta. Maria added 13 and Jay-R Reyes contributed 10.

Welcoat also benefited from a lucky break when Compton missed on a drive in the closing seconds.

Washington and Najorda are apparently back in form after struggling early in the semifinal series. Garcia, however, continues to expect more from Washington, his prized 6-foot-7 Fil-Am.

"He rebounded well but his offense and defense were not that good," he said.

Jasmine W. Payo


WELCOAT'S Caloy Garcia

Torre still welcome to join RP team—Go

By Musong R. Castillo

IN ANOTHER twist to the festering chess crisis, National Chess Federation of the Philippines president Go Teng Kok yesterday declared that the door is not totally closed on GM Eugene Torre playing in the Southeast Asian Games.

The "option" idea—seeding a player to the Philippine team—was retained by the NCFP board and Go told the INQUIRER the chess body can use that to pre-select Torre for the team even if Asia's first GM decides to make good his threat to skip the qualifiers.

At the same time, Go moved the resumption of the postponed matches to June 23, along with the remainder of the National Championships, to give way to the Iligan Open.

A press statement from Go's office yesterday said the NCFP will punish players originally entered in the tournament but who decide to withdraw without a valid reason.

This exempts Grandmaster Bong Villamayor, who will fly back to Singapore on Monday, but not Torre, who declared on Thursday that he will skip the qualifiers because he was being singled out as the "option."

"We are still hoping that Eugene can play," Go said over the phone.

"If it turns out that No. 5 [after the qualifiers] is an inferior player, I will consider Eugene," Go added. "The option is open, and not to Eugene alone. But Eugene is one of the best in standard [chess]."

During the first bull session held at the Century Park Hotel on Monday, Go declared that only those seeing action in the qualifiers can be eligible to be picked for the team as the "option."

The National Championships will resume at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium with no prize money at stake. Instead, the prizes will be the first four slots to the SEAG national team.

TORRE: The "option"?

GO: Open 5th slot

The player who winds up fifth will be on shaky ground, precisely the point raised by International Master Chito Garma, who wanted all five slots to be put up for grabs in the qualifiers.

Garma and several others raised a howl while the tournament was being played in Tagaytay last weekend after certain stipulations governing the event were not declared before the first move was taken.

A large group also protested against the NCFP accommodation of latecomer GMs Joey Antonio and Nelson Mariano three rounds into the event without forfeiting their earlier matches.

The Philippines is the defending champion in the SEAG.

RP Seniors golf up; FVR to hit 1st drive

FORMER President Fidel V. Ramos will hit the ceremonial drive in the 2005 Philippine Senior Amateur Golf championship which tees off Wednesday at the Mount Malarayat in Lipa City.

Ramos will also see action in the Super Senior II, a division reserved for players over 75 years old.

The 54-hole Open category is expected to lure the best players in the land who are 55 years and over. The other classes are Category II for those between 60 and 64, Category III (65-69) and Super Senior I (70 to 74).

Entries will be accepted until the end of office hours on Monday.

Gross scores will be used to determine the champion in the Open division, while the four age group categories will use the handicap system of scoring.

The composite Malarayat layout—the Mount Makulot and Mount Lobo nines, venue of the recent 89th Philippine Open—is in its best shape.

Australian longshot Adam Le Vesconte won the RP Open with a 12-under 272 total.

The second of three national championships the National Golf Association of the Philippines is organizing this year is presented by ICTSI and San Miguel Corp. and backed by Aboitiz, Hanjin Group, Petron Blaze, Pagcor, PCSO, Philippine Airlines, the DOT and the Inns at the Malarayat.

Entry fee is P2,500 for the Open category and P2,000 for the age groups— which will be played over 36 holes—inclusive of one practice round.

For inquiries, call the NGAP office at 5256987 or 5245160.

Alcano heads elite cast in Cebu pool challenge

CEBU CITY—Ronnie Alcano, the new golden boy of Philippine billiards, heads an elite field of world-class players seeing action in the 4th Sun Star-Super Balita 9-Ball Challenge slated June 20-23 at the SM City Trade Hall.

Alcano won last week's San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour's Manila leg against the likes of Efren Reyes, Francisco Bustamante, Taiwan's Yang Ching-shun and Chao Fong-pang and other Asian big guns.

The 4th Sun Star-Super Balita 9-Ball Challenge, to be aired by Rocketman Enterprises on IBC-13, is offering the biggest purse for a billiards tournament in the South.

Going up against Alcano are world-ranked players Lee Van Corteza, Antonio Lining and former Super Balita champions Dennis Orcollo and Antonio Gabica. The 2005 edition of the event is backed by Touch Mobile, also the presenter of the TM 9-Ball Philippine Champions League.

Orcollo, a World Pool Championship regular campaigner, won the 2003 edition while Gabica, the 2004 Motolite Fil-9 Open champion won the inaugural leg.

Leonardo "Dodong" Andam and Warren Kiamco will lead the Cebuano assault. Others vying in the event are the promising Jeffrey de Luna and 1997 Southeast Asian Games gold medalist Victor Arpilleda.

ALCANO: New toast

Last year's winner, Richard Haya, a 15-12 winner over Corteza, is in the United Arab Emirates and won't be able to defend his title.

"We are going to make it bigger next year," Sun Star's Jed Calomarde pledged in 2004 after handing Haya his championship trophy.

And bigger it has become with an elite field and the backing of Rocketman Enterprises, which is conducting the TM 9-Ball Ang Bagong Sibol tournament in eight key cities around Luzon.

Sun Star Publishing, the only network of community papers in the country with branches in Davao, Gen. Santos City, Iloilo, Bacolod, Dumaguete, Cagayan de Oro, Pampanga, Pangasinan and Zamboanga, started the tournament in 2002 as a search for the next Efren "Bata" Reyes.

Turbochargers . . .

From page A25

the encounter out of proportion.

Austria said the players shook hands and agreed to forget the incident after the workout.

The scores:

First Game

SHELL 65—Alvarez 16, Tubid 16, Mamaril 14, Williams 12, Dela Cruz 7, Calaguio 7, Yap 7, Ferreria 6, Sharma 0, Sotto 0, Cruz 0.

STA. LUCIA 74—Fletcher 21, Duremdes 17, Espino 11, Tolomia 9, Fernandez 6, Omolon 4, Cuan 2, Calimag 2, Demape 2, Santos 0, Mendoza 0.

Quarters: 20-20, 40-37, 52-61, 65-74.

Second Game

ALASKA 86—Cariaso 24, Padilla 18, Simpkins 10, Wilson 8, Allado 8, Cortez 7, Hawkins 4, Hugnatan 4, Thoss 3, Johnson 0.

COCA-COLA 66—Arigo 25, Wainwright 10, Junio 8, Antonio 7, Sanford 6, Chia 4, Abrientos 3, Francisco 3, Ramos 0, Singson 0, Avenido 0, Morano 0.

Quarters: 28-10, 42-29, 69-46, 86-66.

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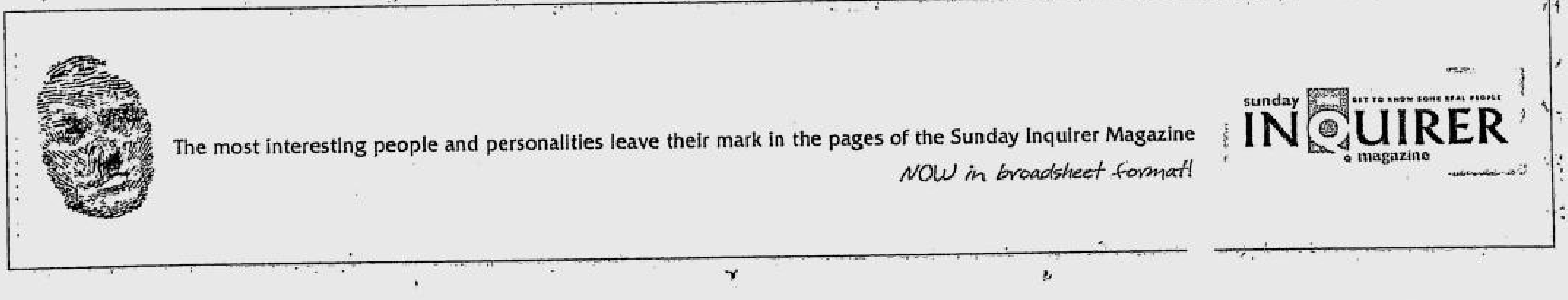
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GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

Duncan still the man as Spurs trim Pistons

DUNCAN (left) and Wallace wrestle for control of the ball during second half action in Game 1 of the 20
Antonio, Texas.

SAN ANTONIO—Tim Duncan was the Most Valuable Player in the playoffs when the San Antonio Spurs won the NBA championship in 1999 and 2003 and if Game One of this year's Finals is any indication, he might just make it a three-for-three sweep.

Duncan had 24 points and pulled down 17 rebounds to lead an inspired second half comeback as the Spurs opened the best-of-seven series with an 84-69 win over the defending NBA champion Detroit Pistons on Thursday.

"He's the key to the whole deal. "He's got to be respected," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said of Duncan.

"Timmy had 24 points and 17 rebounds and he had blocks and he played some great D (defense) tonight and did some wonderful things tonight, and I just ignore him.

"He gets the same treatment David Robinson got—you just take it for granted every night." It is easy to perhaps take Duncan for granted with his unassuming manner.

The development of players around him like Manu Ginobili, who scored 26 points had nine rebounds on Thursday, and Tony Parker have also helped the Spurs become a better all-round team.

But Spurs teammate Robert Horry, who has played on five NBA championship teams, believes the team still revolves around Duncan and another championship would not be possible without him.

"He gets 24 and 17 and we don't even talk about it," Horry said.

"I've been around a lot of star players, a lot of leaders, and he's one of the best. Look at his playoff record, he's always big in the big games. Always." Duncan was quick to spread the credit around, especially when asked about Ginobili.

"Unbelievable. He was great," Duncan said. "When Manu gets rolling everybody gets their confidence up.

"What it's about for us is playing 48 minutes in a game. We need everyone to contribute." *Reuters*

Jackson ponders return to Lakers

SAN ANTONIO, Texas—Former Los Angeles coach Phil Jackson reiterated on Thursday that he is pondering a return to the Lakers just one season after leaving the club when contract talks broke down.

Speaking on the pre-game show for game one of the 2005 National Basketball Association finals between San Antonio and Detroit, Jackson expressed surprised that the Lakers would even consider bringing him back so soon and following the publication of a tell-all book that was highly critical of Kobe Bryant.

"It is the most unusual situation I have ever seen," Jackson said. "Just a year ago we (Lakers) underwent a direction change, and now to be in this situation is unusual. It takes a while just to get used to the thought." Asked why it was taking him so long to decide about a return, Jackson said he wants to make sure he is healthy enough to withstand the pressures of coaching an NBA team.

"There have been health issues that have gone on," he said. "Getting through a battery of tests to make sure that things didn't happen that were similar to other situations here in Los Angeles that happened to Rudy Tomjanovich." Jackson didn't provide details about money, but he is reportedly seeking a deal worth 10 million dollars a season. *AFP*

Gogel rips Booz Allen record by 1

BETHESDA, Maryland—Struggling Matt Gogel fired a course-record eight-under par 63 here Thursday to grab a three-stroke lead in the storm-halted first round of the PGA Booz Allen Classic.

The 34-year-old American's bogey-free round at Congressional Country Club, the site of three major championships, broke the old course mark of 64 set by Americans Fred Couples and Bobby Clampett at this event in 1986.

Gogel, whose only PGA tour triumph came in 2002 at Pebble Beach, missed the cut in nine of 13 prior starts this year. His best finish of 2005 was a share of 19th in February at Scottsdale, Arizona.

"It's kind of my time," Gogel said. "I really hit rock bottom a month and a half ago. I've had the most disappointing year I've ever had. So it has finally turned around. I'm getting some confidence." England's Lee Westwood, Sweden's Fredrik Jacobson and American Brett Wetterich shared second on 66 at the five million-dollar event, the final tuneup for next week's US Open in Pinehurst, North Carolina.

A thunderstorm halted play with 42 golfers still on the course, including South Africa's Ernie Els, two-under par with one hole to complete. This is the sixth year in a row the event has suffered a weather delay.

Tiger Woods and David Toms are the only top-10 players absent but the big names struggled to solve Congressional.

Fiji's Vijay Singh and US star Phil Mickelson fired par 71s. Reigning US Open champion Retief Goosen of South Africa began with a 70.

"I was disappointed with the score," Mickelson said. "I thought I could score pretty low. I was driving the ball pretty well. I would like to carry it over to the weekend. If I do, I should be able to make some birdies." Upstarts topped the leaderboard but Jacobson sounded a cautionary note.

"First day," Jacobson said. "Take another look on Sunday." Gogel, who has not qualified for the year's second major championship, began on the back nine with five pars, then had three sets of back-to-back birdies at 15 and 16, 18 and one and three and four.

"I could throw it at the flag when I needed to and play it conservative on some other holes," Gogel said. *AFP*

SORENSTAM on sight for third straight LPGA title. AP

Afleet Alex Belmont Stakes fa

ELMONT, New York—Afleet Alex and Giacomo run the rubber match of their rousing Triple Crown series on Saturday in the 137th edition of the Belmont Stakes, but beware the longshots.

Preakness Stakes winner Afleet Alex, the 6-5 top choice, and Kentucky Derby champion Giacomo, a 4-1 pick, look the class of an 11-horse field, whose other members total only 16 wins in 54 starts, including just one graded stakes victory.

The showdown could confirm Afleet Alex as cream of the crop, with a resume that already boasts seven wins in 11 races. Alex finished third, one length back of 50-1 shot Giacomo, in the Derby while Giacomo was third in the Preakness.

Afleet Alex's jockey Jeremy Rose was confident he had the best mount. "If we're within four or five lengths at the quarter pole, I don't think anyone can outkick me," he said.

"This horse has a lot of stamina. He's the most athletic horse I've ever been around." said trainer Tim Ritchey, architect of an arduous two-a-day workout regimen for Alex, who showed his fitness overcoming a collision with another horse in the stretch before winning the Preakness going away.

Giacomo trainer John Shirreffs sees the race as cementing his horse's reputation.

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Afleet Alex
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Sorenstam a shot off; J-

HAVRE DE GRACE, Maryland—Annika Sorenstam began her bid for a third successive LPGA Championship and the second leg of a possible grand slam with a flawless four-under-par 68 on Thursday.

Sweden's world number one finished one shot off the lead and was safely in the clubhouse when the threat of lightning interrupted play.

Three players finish with 67 in the second major of the season -- Britain's Laura Davies and two Americans, Laura Diaz and Natalie Gulbis, who was playing with Sorenstam and completed her round with five straight birdies.

Filipina Jennifer Rosales fires a 71 (35-36), just four shots off while Fil-Am Dorothy Delasin was farther back at 78 (40-38).

America's two precocious golfing teenagers also made their mark.

Paula Creamer, the 18-year-old who won an event in New York last month, joined the four-way tie in joint fourth on 68, while 15-year-old Michelle Wie, the lone amateur in the field, had a 69.

Sorenstam, who has won seven of her last nine tournaments, was delighted with her start.

"It was a very solid round," she told reporters. "I could have played the par fives a little better (she only birdie one of the four) but I also made some crucial par putts and I'm very pleased with my position."

Sorenstam set out from the 10th and her birdies were all from inside 13-feet and came at the long 11th and the par-four 13th, first and fourth.

But perhaps the most important hole was her first, the 373-yard par four 10th.

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Tyson tips scales at 233 pounds vs McBride

WASHINGTON—Former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson tipped the scales at 233 pounds on Thursday for his fight against Irishman Kevin McBride on Saturday.

Tyson, 38, weighed the same for his last fight, a fourth-round knockout loss to Danny Williams last year in Louisville, Kentucky.

The 6-foot-6 McBride, who has a 32-4-1 record with 27 knockouts, weighed 271 pounds, his highest ever for a fight. The 32-year-old McBride has won his last seven fights.

Tyson, hoping to re-emerge in the title picture after losing two of his last three fights, is six pounds lighter than his previous highest fight weight.

The 5-foot-11 Tyson weighed 239 for his seventh-round knockout of Brian Nielsen in 2001. A native of Brooklyn, New York, Tyson has a 50-5 record with 44 knockouts.

Promoters say they have sold more than 14,000 tickets for the fight at the MCI Center, about 3,000 shy of capacity. *Reuters*

KEVIN McBride, 6-foot-6, towers over the 5-foot-11 Mike Tyson during their official weigh in yesterday. AFP

Corrales rejects WBC order for rematch with Castillo

MEXICO CITY—Lightweight champion Diego Corrales has appealed a World Boxing Council order for an immediate rematch with the man he beat to take the title, Jose Luis Castillo of Mexico.

According to a statement released on Thursday by the Mexico City-based WBC, the U.S.-born Corrales (41-2) said the governing body almost never requires immediate rematches, and it should allow him an intermediate fight before he has to defend his title against Castillo.

Castillo (52-7-2) twice knocked down Corrales during a long and brutal title bout on May 7 in Las Vegas. But Corrales prevailed when referee Tony Weeks ended the fight at 2:06 of the 10th round, with Castillo on the ropes and taking tremendous punishment to the head.

Castillo appealed to the WBC for an immediate rematch, claiming Weeks unintentionally took too long to count out Castillo after the knockdowns. The council ruled the two should fight again as soon as possible, prompting Corrales' appeal. *AP*

BRITAIN's Andrew Murray falls and injures his leg during his third round match against Sweden's Thomas Johansson at the Stella Artois Championships at Queen's Club, London.. Johansson won. REUTERS

Federer cruises into quarters

HALLE, Germany—Swiss world number one and top seed Roger Federer cruised into the quarter-finals of the 680,250-euro ATP grasscourt event here on Thursday.

Federer, who has won the two previous editions of this event, scored an easy 6-2, 6-4 win over German Florian Mayer in just 58 minutes.

Federer will meet Philipp Kohlschreiber, also from Germany, in the quarter-finals.

Federer, in commanding form in the first set, suffered some jitters in the second, twice losing games on his serve.

"Despite these breaks, I felt an increasing confidence. I'm very happy with my form," said Federer, who goes on to Wimbledon, where he won in 2003 and 2004.

Argentinian fourth seed Guillermo Canas beat Serb qualifier Nenad Zimonjic in straight sets 6-3, 7-6 (7/3).

Juan-Carlos Ferrero of Spain overcame Germany's doubles specialist Alexander Waske, who had knocked out rising star Rafael Nadal in the first round, 7-6 (7/5), 6-7 (7/9), 6-3.

"2003 was really difficult for me. I was world number three but I was out for three months and then I broke my ribs and I lost points," said Ferrero. "I had to come back into competition and today I play better."

It wasn't all bad news for home fans, though, with veteran Rainer Schuttler going through 6-3, 6-3 against Dick Norman of Belgium. He will face Canas in the quarters. *AFP*

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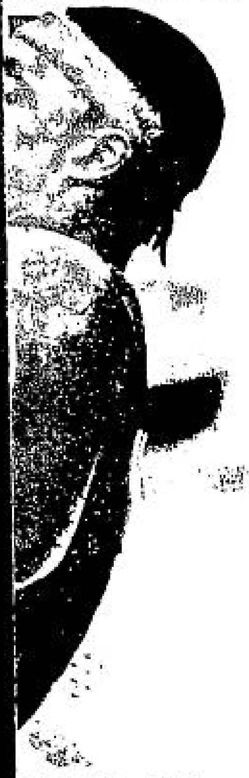

005 NBA Finals in San

REUTERS

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people appreciate him," he

and Giacomo are the only the field to run in both the Preakness.

g of the famed U.S. series for is run over a mile and a half -- faced by any of the horses, often produces a surprise.

to go all the way around a lf," said renowned trainer is saddling three horses.

is a completely different e to have questions about oing a mile and a half."

Reuters

Ro fires 71

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e ball well nothing," ted asking rd) to read d to hole a best came where she rolled one home from 30-feet.

Gulbis, a 22-year-old in her fourth season on Tour, has yet to win, but has shown some fine form this season, including a tie for second at the LPGA Tournament in Williamsburg last month.

Often dubbed the Anna Kournikova of women's golf, the glamorous youngster is based in Las Vegas where she works with Tiger Woods's former coach Butch Harmon.

Diaz had seven birdies and led outright until she bogeyed the short 17th, while Creamer, with four birdies in a row from the 14th, and Wie, with birdies at the 10th, 15th and 16th in a faultless back nine, both made late runs.

Wie's only problem was indigestion - and she was delighted when her round was interrupted by a 52-minute weather delay. *Reuters*

humacher wants trick in F1 race

REAL—World champion Michael Schumacher said hursday that Indianapolis 500 success story Danica should be given a chance to prove her talent in la One.

rican Patrick has been thrown into the limelight af- ishing fourth in the classic United States Indy Car vo weeks ago, the highest a woman has finished in ory.

Schumacher said: "I would love to have her here to ith us. I don't know (if she could compete), there een guys who have been able to do so and others ive not, but it would be interesting to find out." The uction of a female driver would be a big interest to la One, which is trying to draw back fans after see- popularity drop due to recent years of Schumacher rrari domination.

ick, 23, finished second behind Anthony Davidson, now the test and reserve driver for BAR-Honda, in rmula Ford Festival in 2000 and then moved to a after missing out on a test with the Benetton

Briton Jenson Button believes her impressive re- sults have been boosted by the way Indy Car racing nd believes the female racer will never make it into la One. *AFP*

tros trample Mets r 2nd road victory

NTO—Morgan Ensberg had an 11th inning RBI d rule double and Adam Everett smacked a two-run lifting the Houston Astros to a 6-3 victory over the ork Mets on Thursday in National League play at tadium.

ce Berkman, Brad Ausmus and Craig Biggio each buted an RBI to the victory for the surging Astros, ave three of their last four and two straight road

s Springer (1-2) tossed a scoreless 10th to pick up n while Brad Lidge got the final three outs in the nail down the decision and his 15th save.

th Bell (0-3) was tagged with the loss, hammered ee runs on four hits in the 11th and chased from me after getting just one out.

d Wright had a solo homerun for the Mets. rs.

Ginobili showcases skills

SAN ANTONIO, Texas—Manu Ginobili is making a name for himself, and what better time to showcase his skills than in the National Basketball Association finals.

The 27-year-old Argentinean was outstanding in the regular season averaging 16.0 points a game, but he has been simply superb for the San Antonio Spurs in the playoffs, averaging six more points a game.

"My confidence has been built up a lot," said Ginobili after scoring 26 points in San Antonio's 84-69 win Thursday over Detroit in the opening game of the title series.

"I feel more responsibility at the end of the game and that's what I love doing." He rattled off six straight points late in the game to halt a 10-0 Pistons run that had rallied the defending league champions back from a 17-point deficit.

Ginobili, who was chosen for the NBA All-star team for the first time this season, is seeking his second NBA title in just his third season in league. He was a rookie on the Spurs team that beat New Jersey in the finals in 2003.

A self described "slasher", Ginobili is one of the best in the league attacking the basket.

"He plays at that pace all the time," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said.

After scoring just four points in the first half on Thursday Ginobili busted loose for 15 points in the final quarter.

"He started relaxing," said teammate Robert Horry. "Before he would try to get to the rack but he wasn't able to because those guys are great shot blockers and they got their hands on a lot of balls."

Detroit seems to be one of his favourite teams to pick on as Ginobili shot 62 percent from the three-point line in two regular season games this season against Detroit.

But Thursday's performance was even more spectacular as his teammates on the bench were content to just take it in.

"Manu's unbelievable," said the Spurs' Nazr Mohammed. "I was just sitting over there with my popcorn watching." Unfortunately for Detroit, they did a lot of that too.

AFP

GINOBILI celebrates their Game 1 win.

REUTERS

Armstrong sends warning to Tour de France rivals

LE MONT VENTOUX, France—Lance Armstrong may have been beaten in two major tests in the Dauphine Libere but he warned his rivals on Thursday he would be ready in time to win his seventh Tour de France in succession next month.

The American finished third in his first significant time trial of the season over 46.5 kms on Wednesday and fourth the next day in his last ride up the Mont Ventoux, cycling's most gruelling mountain and a summit he will never conquer.

But the Texan, second overall behind compatriot Levi Leipheimer, said he was not worried in the least.

"You often see riders do well in the Dauphine Libere and a month later they are not so strong," he said, in a reference to Basque Iban Mayo, who dominated in the Ventoux last year and sank in the Tour.

Victory in Thursday's 182-km fourth stage to the Ventoux went to Kazakh Alexander Vinokourov while Colombian Santiago Botero won Wednesday's time trial.

"I have learnt not to be impatient. It was difficult today but the real test is a month away and I stay on schedule.

"I'm trying to gain some condition here, some race rhythm and to focus on the big objective. Everybody is calm and collected and we are ready," he said.

Armstrong admitted he had suffered on the Ventoux climb, but he always has.

"Lance knows that the Ventoux is not his thing. He has had a lot of hard times here in the past. *Reuters*

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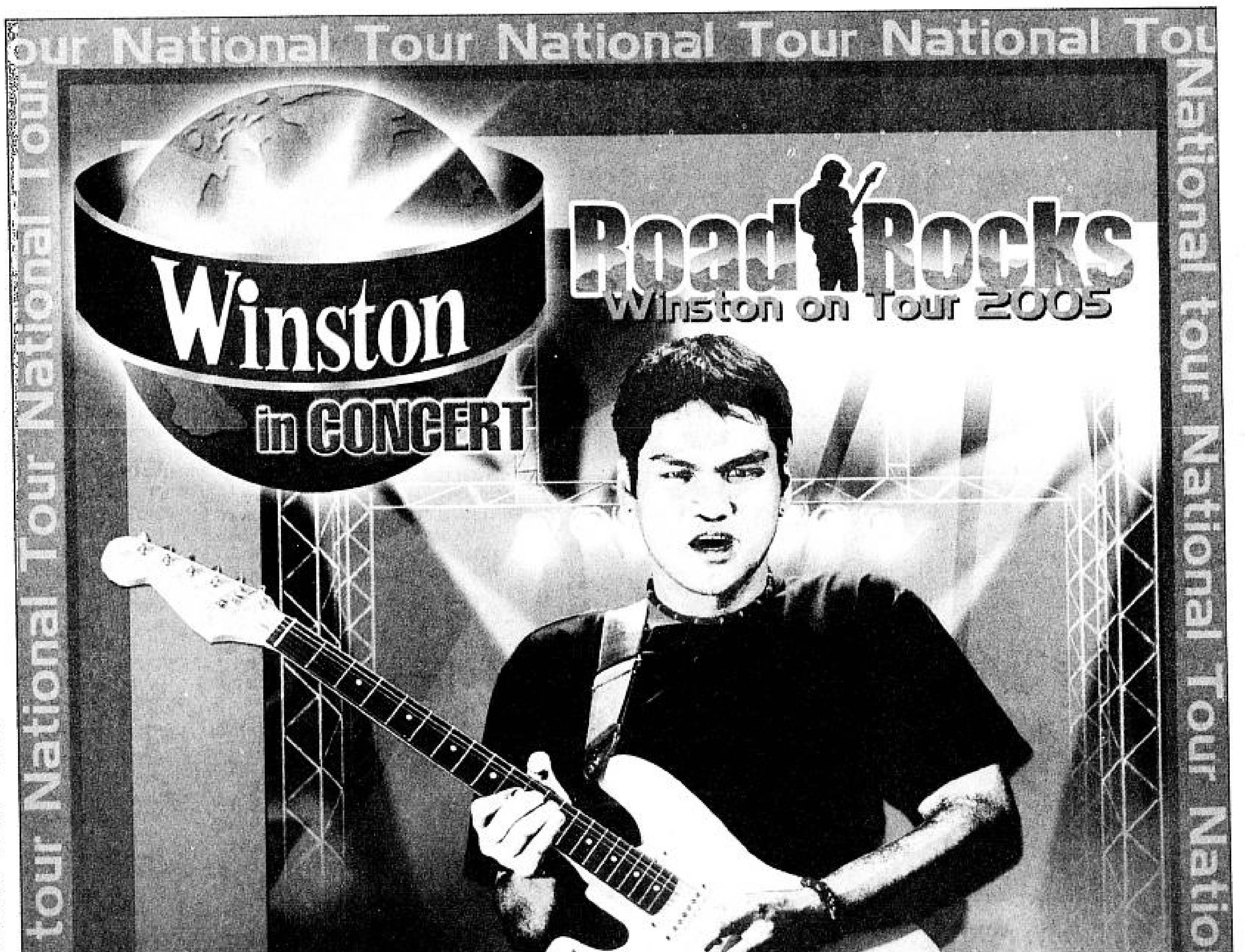
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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Cebu, Bacolod ready to host SEAG

CEBU and Bacolod City, the two biggest provincial satellite venues of this year's Southeast Asian Games, are more than 50 percent ready to host the 12 events assigned them by the Philippine SEA Games Organizing Committee.

Nilo Balaero, executive assistant to Philsoc chair Roberto "Obet" Pagdanganan, yesterday assured that the cities of Cebu, Mandaue and Danao, under the scale of 1-10, are 7-8 ready to hold the seven disciplines set in their areas.

Commissioner Joey Mundo of the Philippine Sports Commission, for his part, said that Bacolod City is also 80 percent prepared for competitions in boxing, men's football, beach and indoor volleyball and weightlifting.

PAGDANGANAN

Balatero, who was with Pagdanganan during an ocular inspection tour of the Cebu venues last Thursday, said during the Scoop Sa Kamayan weekly session that except for minor kinks that are expected to be ironed out next week competitions in dance sports, karatedo, judo, pencat silat and taekwondo will go on smoothly in their respective sites.

"Chairman Pagdanganan talked with (Cebu City) Mayor Tom Osmeña and officials of the Cebu Organizing Committee and they assured him that there will be no problem from their end during the SEAG," Balatero said.

He said there was a problem with Hotel Waterfront asking for P450,000 a day to stage the dance sports competitions but it later decided to waive the fee since the athletes and Games officials will be staying in the same hotel.

Balatero said that all the other venues are ready, except for Cebu Coliseum (taekwondo), which only needs re-painting.

Mandaue Coliseum will be the site for karatedo, judo and pencat silat, the University of San Carlos gym for sepak takraw and Danao City for the mountain bike event in cycling.

Mundo, reporting on a similar ocular inspection made by PSC chair Butch Ramirez last weekend, announced that except for the Paglaum Sports Complex, one of two sites for men's football, all Bacolod venues are in top conditions.

"Paglaum needs major repairs because of years of unuse, but renovation can start within the next two weeks," Mundo bared. "Facilities at La Salle (boxing and beach volleyball) are ready anytime as well as the West Negros College (indoor volleyball) and the Bacolod Convention Center (weightlifting).

Former PSC commissioner and now Philsoc accommodations committee chair Cynthia Carrion, who was also at the session along with Philippine Olympic Committee secretary general Steve Hontiveros, meanwhile, announced that the national training pool will present a special number as Philsoc's participation in the Philippine Independence Day celebration tomorrow at the Luneta.

Cua makes nat'l team, boosts sister's chances

SHERCILA Cua did her younger sister a favor entering the homestretch of the 2005 Women's Standard Chess Grand Finals yesterday at the Sunflower Hotel in Tagaytay City.

Cua, easily the biggest revelation in the tournament hosted by Tagaytay City Mayor Bambol Tolentino, downed Woman National Master Aices Salvador to pace the 15-player field with 10.0 points and secure a spot in the national team.

Her 49-move win in their Sicilian encounter pulled Salvador out of the magic five and shoved her sister WNM Sherily Cua above the cutoff. Salvador was stuck at 6.5 points.

"This is a double victory because I made the team and my sister got the inside track on one more slot," Shercila said in Filipino.

The younger Cua improved to 7.0 and occupied fifth spot after beating WNM Joann Toledo in their Caro Kann duel.

The top five players in the Close tournament sanctioned by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) will compose the women's national standard chess team set to compete in this year's Southeast Asian Games.

Woman International Master Sheerie Joy Lomibao also clinched a spot in the team after manhandling statuesque Cebuana teenager Therese Gonzales in 40 moves of Queen's Pawn Opening. Lomibao, the reigning national women's champion, was in solo second with 9.5 points.

Enerose Magno also landed a spot in the national team after halving the point with Woman International Master Beverly Mendoza. She pushed her total to 9.0 points, already beyond the reach of the sixth running Salvador with only two rounds to play.

Mendoza remained in good shape of making it to the squad with 8.0 total.

Meanwhile, Mallorca Olympiad veteran WNM Loreshyl Cuizon virtually kissed her chances goodbye after bowing to Catherine Pereña 54 moves of Slav. She was 1.5 points off the last spot with 5.5.

RACE CHAMP: Defending champion Jody Coseteng of the San Miguel Racing Team on the way to sweeping Rounds 3 and 4 in the 2005 Petron National Touring Car Championship at the Batangas Racing Circuit recently.

Benitez, Cabili eye Asian karting wins

BENITEZ (left) and Cabili before their qualifying time trials yesterday in the 2005 Asian Open Karting Championship.

JAVI Benitez and Tomas Cabili of JeT Racing show their wares against topnotch foreign counterparts this weekend in the kickoff of the 2005 Asian Open Karting Championship at the Carmona Circuit Philippines.

Benitez and Cabili will be gunning for honors in the Cadet 60 and Cadet 85 class on home turf in this CIK-FIA event sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines.

The 10-year-old Benitez made waves in the second leg of the Shell Superkarting Series at the Boom Na Boom Kart Trak where he ruled the Cadet 60 Expert class though he has just recovered from an arm injury.

Benitez earlier posted the fastest laptime of 35.379 seconds on the 650-meter track to grab the pole.

Cabili, on the other hand, made it a 1-2 finish for the JeT Racing Team aces, who are backed by Bingo Bonanza Corporation, Henry Sy, Jr of SM companies and Willy Ocier of Pacific Online Systems Corporation and Belle Corporation.

Benitez said he's just raring to go against equally talented Cadet 95 Asian rivals that will include Mitchell Gilbert and Muhammad Hiqmar Dania of Malaysia, Andrew Tang of Singapore and Senna Sulaiman Noor and Sharfani Fega Muhammad of Indonesia.

"This will be a different experience since this will be my first international race before a hometown crowd. I'm so excited and I'll hope to do my best to make our country proud," said Javi, son of Bingo Bonanza top honcho Albee Benitez.

Former motocross rider Elson Carpio also expressed high hopes for Javi, who has been training hard since last weekend.

"He's really focused, and he told me he wants to win this one for the country," said Carpio, a professional racing instructor and personal coach of Javi. "He has matured as far as skills and consistency are concerned. I believe he has a big chance of winning the crown and even greater chances of making it big in karting."

JAVI Benitez (left) and Tomas Cabili (right) with race coach Elson Carpio.

Universal Reality Combat returns June 25

MANILA'S premier mixed martial arts tournament returns to the Casino Filipino Amphitheater in Parañaque City on June 25 with the staging of the 6th Universal Reality Combat Championship (URCC).

Warriors from various martial arts disciplines will unleash their fury starting at 8 p.m.

Dubbed "Unleashed Fury," the event is presented by San Mig Strong Ice in cooperation with Solar Entertainment, Revicon Icon and Pony Footwear and will feature three title matches.

URCC will also showcase seven supporting bouts featuring boxing, wushu, jiujitsu, kickboxing and others.

The main event will see undefeated URCC champion Richard "The Dancing Devil" Lasprilla (Deftac) defending his flyweight division title against Erwin "The Natural" Tagle (Submission Sports Philippines). Another much awaited fight is the encounter between TJ "The Professor" Tiu (Freestyle Wrestling) and Phil "The Beast" Bryner (Tough Republic) who will be fighting for the heavyweight championship.

URCC 6: Unleashed Fury is sponsored by FHM, Signum and Lifeline. Tickets worth P450, P700 and P1,000 are available at the Ticketnet outlets at the Araneta Coliseum and at the SM Department Store and at the Red Corner. For inquiries and ticket reservations, call 9115555.

Olympic Day Run registration opens

REGISTRATION for the Olympic Day Run set at Baywalk, Roxas Boulevard, on June 26 is now open at the POC-NSA Office at Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, Vito Cruz, Manila.

Queries on the ODR being held worldwide are entertained through 5224896 or 0920-5599911.

The field in the 10-K run and the 3-K fun run/walk mandatory for the groups vying for honors in the slogan contest with Sports for All/Go Active as the theme is limited to 2,500 runners, all to be given commemorative T-shirts.

In the 10K, which has a special wheelchair division in partnership with the Philippine Sports Association for the Differently-Abled (Philspada) chaired by Mike Barredo, the categories are 18 years old and below, 19-25, 26-35, 36-45, 46-55, 56-65 and, 66 and over for males; and 18 and below, 19-25, 26-35, and 36 and over.

The 3-K fun run cum slogan contest has four categories: 1) National Sports Associations, 2) Sports/Fitness Clubs, 3) LGUs/Govenrment Agencies, and 4) School. Each institution may field as many teams, composed of between 10-20 members, as it can.

Entry fee for the 10-K offering cash prizes is P100 and for the 3K P50 for every member.

RYTHMIC GYMNAST: Slovakia's Lucia Vaskova performs with the ball during the 21st European Rythmic Gymnastics Championship, in Moscow.

AFP

adidas Sports Kamp celebrates anniversary

IT'S GOING to be a wet, wild and fun-filled Saturday as adidas Sports Kamp (aSK), a premiere athletic facility inside the Bonifacio Global City in Taguig, celebrates its first year anniversary today.

Arsenic Laurel, president of aSK, expects all members of their aSK Kids totaling more than 200 to join the event which has adidas, Snickers, PLDT MyDSL, Purefoods-Hormel, Gatorade, Megaworld, Alaska and Teriyaki Boy as sponsors.

"There'll be a lot of games, giveaways and prizes to be given away. I'm sure the kids, as well as the whole family, will have a great time," Laurel said.

The field activities, according to Laurel, include paint with water, dribble dribble drench, splash tag, piggy freeze, jug toss, water volleyball, musical sprinkler, obsta-cool course, water squirtball and water limbo dancing. The affair is free to the aSK Kids. Walk-in guests can also join for a fee.

SPORTSWATCH

NCR elims kick off active chess meet

THE SHELL National Youth Active Chess Championships (SNYACC) kicks off its eight-leg nationwide circuit on June 25-26 with the staging of the National Capital Region (NCR) leg. Close to 500 chess-playing students and out-of-school youths are expected to see action at the 5th level, Activity Center of SM Manila. Registration is still ongoing and will end June 18. Only the first 500 registered participants will be accommodated on a first come-first served basis. Entry fee is P50. For details, contact NCR leg coordinator Alex Dinoy at 0916-5146384 or (02) 744-1664. Forms are available at Shellane showrooms nationwide and are being distributed by the SNYACC leg coordinators to various schools, chess clubs and municipal/provincial government offices. They can also be downloaded at www.shell.com.ph. The juniors, for players 20-years-old and below (born not later than 1985), and the kiddies, for players 14-years-old and below (born not later than 1991)will be on tap.

Westin Manila tilt stakes Sydney trip

GET a chance to win a free trip to Sydney via Cathay Pacific by joining the 1st Run Westin Manila on June 19. The first place winner of the 10K run will represent the Philippines to the very prestigious Bridge Run Sydney on Sept. 11. The prize includes the roundtrip ticket to Sydney, Australia, with a 4-day, 3-night accommodation at The Westin Sydney. The event will start at 6 a.m. on the grounds of The Westin Philippine Plaza. The 5K and 10K run starts from Westin -Vicente Sotto Street all the way through Roxas Boulevard with the 5K run having Cuneta Astrodome as the turning point and the 10K run extending to the Coastal Road. Cash prizes await the top 3 male and female finishers of 5k and 10k races. Register at the G/F Vasquez Madrigal, Greenhills, San Juan or The Westin Sports Club & Spa of The Westin Philippine Plaza. Registration fee is P150. For inquiries, call 5515555 ext. 1587 or 1588.

CPU-AGA to stage 3 golf tournaments

IN CONNECTION with the Centennial Celebration of Central Philippine University, the CPU Alumni Golfer's Association (CPU-AGA) would stage three golf tournaments this year. The Alumni Homecoming Tournament with friends is scheduled on July 29, 30 and 31, the 4th CPU Alumni Invitational Tournament on Sept. 2, 3 and 4 and the CPU "Pasalamat" Tournament on Dec. 2, 3 and 4. Venue of the tournament is the Iloilo Golf and Country Club, Sta. Barbara, Iloilo. For information, contact engineer Isagani Jalbuena, CPU-AGA Secretary at CPU Alumni Affairs Office, CPU Campus, Jaro, Iloilo City. Telefax (033) 3292904.

World Slasher Cup begins June 14

HEAVYWEIGHTS of national and international cockfighting clash on Tuesday, June 14 when the second leg of the " NCA World Slasher Cup 8 – Cock Championship Derby" rages at the Araneta Coliseum. The three–day cockfest (June 14, 16 and 18), billed as the biggest cockfighting event in the world, is a surefire crowd –drawer, said NCA president Ito Ynares. Ynares is co- hosting the sports affair with Big Dome owner Jorge "Nene" Araneta and Jun Santiago. The first leg held last January (118 entries) was won by Alabama cocker Joseph Wolcott and Jun Santiago (Joe Firefly Thunderbird 12) and Boy Marzo and Rod Barro of Dubai (RB Bulalayaw). The elimination round on Tuesday is a 2- cock event, followed by the 2- cock semifinals on Thursday and finally, the championship round on Saturday. For inquiries, contact 9113101 and 9112928 (look for Gloria Avena).

Las Piñas Coliseum 3- cocker today

COCKERS and breeders from Cavite, Laguna, Parañaque, Muntinlupa, Las Pinas and Pasay clash tonight in another 3-cock derby at the fully air-conditioned Las Pinas Coliseum, with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor. Cash prize at stake is P300,000 with P5,500 as entry fee. Derby hosts are Joel, Allan and Raul Ramos. Meanwhile, Las Pinas Coliseum will also present the "Super One- Cock Ulutan" on July 12 with a guaranteed prize of P475, 000. Registration fee is P1,650. Hosts of the event are Jessie Banas and Caloy Bersabal of Cavite. "The event will be held from 8 a.m. to 12 midnight due to the big number of fights," said coliseum manager Alex Tobias. For inquiries, call 8731040 and 8743910 (look for Gerry or Julius).

Makati Coliseum 4-- cocker begins

AFTER the successful grand opening derby last Wednesday, another bigtime cockfest billed as "Spencer 4- Cock Derby" sizzles at the Makati Coliseum today. To host the event, featuring more than 60 fights, is William Co. Among the participants are former Sen. Ramon Revilla, Strike Revilla, sabong Idol Patrick Antonio, Rene Medina, Tony Lasala, Eric dela and Butchoy Olano of Pasay, Emil Chua, Benjie Lim, Dicky Lim, ASF Farms Group, William Go, Rudy Salud, Vice Mayor Nestor Mercado, Lito Orillaza, Boy de Roca and Renato Shio. A total of 43 entries saw action in the "Grand Opening 4 – Cock Derby" last Wednesday, won by Lito Roque (Pasay Anniversary. July 18 ika), Papa Burgos (Mojaco) and SJC 4-Cock July 5. Meanwhile, another 4-cock derby is set on June 20, to be hosted by FTE Group. This will be followed by the WTJ 4-cocker on June 27. Call 8963545 or 8956475 for details.

Joey Lina, BAP savior

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

WHAT does a basketball team do when it is beaten black and blue by its opponents in a tournament?

As a rule, initially it takes stock of the situation to determine what needs to be done. Then, at the first opportunity, it proceeds to institute changes and make the necessary adjustments to fortify the team.

In most cases, a major shakeup is initiated to make the ballclub competitive again.

I guess the Basketball Association of the Philippines went through this process, which is why a major revamp within the organization was instituted.

The old lineup was reinforced by competent, respected and dynamic personalities like former Sen. Joey Lina, now president of the Manila Hotel, who replaced Tiny Literal as BAP president, Sen. Dick Gordon who took over Go Teng Kok's post as project director for the 2007 Fiba-Asia Men's Championship bid, Wilson Young, president/COO of Lucio Tan's Basic Holdings Corp., who was installed as vice president for Luzon.

Then there's former POC president Cristy Ramos who was named Women's Commission chair, Fedex cager Jerry Codiñera, NCR director, and Air 21 president Lito Alvarez, deputy secretary general.

As such, will Lito be reporting to BAP secretary general Graham Lim?

* * *

"The saviour has come," I told Joey, who I last met a long, long time ago during his first term as senator, when I got the chance to talk to him the other day.

Even then, he was already involved in sports. For example, he was behind the "Create a Sports Hero" program which produced a hundred and one medals in the 1991 Southeast Asian Games held here in the Philippines.

"*Noong una pinagtatawanan nila ako*, but the program turned out to be so successful," said Joey who, as Laguna governor, produced a group of powerhouse athletes culled from the grassroots level.

In case you didn't know, Joey is also partly to blame—or emulated, depending on your view—for the creation of the Philippine Sports Commission, a bill which he co-authored with Sen. Nene Pimentel and later defended on the Senate floor.

Indeed, the new BAP president has a long list of involvement in Philippine sports which makes him highly qualified for the position.

* * *

Aware of the BAP's present problems, the impasse with the POC in particular, Joey intends to buckle down to work immediately.

"I plan to review the organizational setup and mission vision of the BAP so we can introduce reforms and innovations, if necessary, to make the association more effective," said the former DILG secretary who disclosed that he has spoken to POC president Peping Cojuangco recently.

"Everybody believes that sports is vital to a nation, especially basketball in our case, thus I will exert all effort, exhaust all means to get everybody united. The call of the times is to get ourselves united, it is useless to harp on divisive matters."

However, he did not disclose what they discussed.

"We will reach out to everyone concerned. I think good will eventually triumph," said Joey, who promised to invoke Solomonic Owisdom "to descend on all."

* * *

No wonder all the letters being sent by the PBA commissioner to GAB chair Eric Buhain are being returned to sender.

Feeling ignored by the commissioner when he first called his attention to a number of violations he has committed, Buhain made a silent promise to course all his communications to the PBA through the board of governors.

I heard that Eric also threatened to suspend commissioner Noli Eala for his failure to secure a GAB license which, I understand, is required of the commissioner and all PBA personnel.

* * *

Last June 10, Talk 'N Text governor Ricky Vargas submitted to the PBA commissioner's office a copy of the decision of the Court of Appeals affirming *in toto* the decision of the Regional Trial Court of Manila which granted the issuance of a permanent injunction preventing the Department of Justice and the Bureau of Immigration from canceling the Identification Certificate of Pauliasi Taulava and initiating summary deportation proceedings against him.

Now all Asi needs is the nod of the commissioner and the PBA board for him to be able to play again.

V-LEAGUE

Santo Tomas, SSC spikers brace for semis

UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas and San Sebastian College clash again today with both teams hoping to bring the winning feeling into the semifinal round of the Shakey's V-League first conference at the PhilSports Arena.

The Lady Stags surprised the defending champion Tigresses at the start of this event last month—a 25-21, 25-22, 25-14 victory that heralded their transformation from a struggling squad in the first two conferences into a title contender this year.

SSC posted five more victories against a lone loss for a 6-1 slate that assured the Lady Stags a stint in the semifinals, which will be another round-robin affair starting next week.

In contrast, the Tigresses (5-3) scrambled to gain a berth into the next round although they are expected to go all out to even things up with the Lady Stags in their no-bearing 5 p.m. encounter.

Expected to lead SSC's bid are Jennifer Bohawe, Cherry Macatangay and Charisse Ancheta while UST will be bannered by Mary Jean Balse, Venus Bernal and Roxann Pimentel.

FEU (1-7) and Lyceum (0-9) collide in a duel of ousted teams at 3 p.m.

Ateneo (4-4) is the fourth semifinalist with a 4-4 card although three more playdates are on tap to complete the double-round elims of the tournament organized by Sports Vision Management Group, Inc., sponsored by Shakey's Pizza and backed by Accel, Mikasa, IBC-13 and Jemah Television.

Highlights of the matches will be aired over IBC-13 starting at 7 p.m. tomorrow.

STANDINGS	W	L
La Salle	8	0
SSC	6	1
UST	5	3
Ateneo	4	4
FEU	1	7
Lyceum	0	9

GAMES TODAY
(*Philsports*)
3 p.m.—FEU vs Lyceum
5 p.m.—UST vs San Sebastian

MIKASA
UST
6
UST
8
6
8

THE UST Tigresses, last season's first conference champions, will have their hands full against the second-running Lady Stags. PDI PHOTO

Mandaue five pads NBC South to 8 teams

DEWEY Chaochuy Jr. of Dewfoam Industries, NBC's Tito Palma and Lamoiyan Corp.'s Jack Huang (from left, seated) sign the contract formalizing Mandaue's entry. Standing (from left) are Dewfoam marketing officer Robinson Tan Jr., Dewfoam marketing assistant Flor Elegado, NBC's Michelle Daclan and coach Jun Noel.

MANDAUE City, backed by Hapee Toothpaste and Dewfoam Industries, has joined the Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship.

To be called the Mantawi Sparkling Knights, the eighth NBC team in the Southern Conference will be made up of Maui Huelar, Ardy Larong, Marvin Tundag, Mark Moreno, Christian Antiporda, Christopher Carretas, Michael Sereno, Jeffrey Bajenting, June Ace Ursal, Aries Gloria, Jeffrey France and Noel Balili.

Former MBA mentor Jun Noel will handle the team, which is also supported by Mandaue City Mayor Teddy Ouano.

The Sparkling Knights will make their debut on June 18 against the Valencia Golden Harvest at the Mandaue Sports Complex.

"I believe our players and products will get a good exposure in the NBC especially in the Visayas and Mindanao because of its home-and-away format," said team manager Jack Huang after signing the contract with NBC secretary general Tito Palma and Dewfoam Industries vice president/marketing Dewey Chaochuy Jr.

NBC president and reigning national shooting champion Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla welcomed Mandaue's entry, saying "this is a big boost to basketball and NBC, which has been quite successful in promoting regional caging."

Other Southern Conference teams are defending champion Tribu Sugbu, Ozamiz Cotta, Cagayan de Oro Stars, Iligan Crusaders, Iloilo Warriors, Valencia and Zamboanga del Norte Hornbills.

Now on its second season, NBC is supported by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Cebu Pacific, Philtranco, Accel, Molten, Spring Cooking Oil, Far Eastern Insurance, Nature's Spring, Skygo Motorcycles, Sirlitz Solutions Provider, Hapee Toothpaste, Dewfoam Industries, Ping Ping Lechon, Rough Rider Jeans, Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday Plaza-Cebu.

NBC games are shown on NBN 4 at 4 p.m. every Sunday and on Prime Channel at 2 p.m. daily.

7th Petron Mindanao taekwondo under way

ILIGAN CITY—Taekwondo jins from Mindanao display their skills and techniques today and tomorrow in the 7th Petron Mindanao championships at the MSU-IIT gymnasium here.

About 500 athletes representing Philippine Taekwondo Association chapters and branches throughout Mindanao are expected to participate, according to PTA president and POC chair Robert N. Aventajado.

Karloff Christopher A. Fontanosa, PTA-director for Region 10-B, is the tournament's overall chairman.

Competition will be conducted in four divisions, namely, senior men and women, junior men and women, mid-junior men and women and grade school boys and girls, according to PTA vice chair Sung Chon Hong.

Hong said the event, which is sponsored by Petron, Accel and the Philippine Sports Commission, will further boost the enthusiasm of taekwondo athletes in Mindanao.

The competition is also part of the PTA's commitment to help grassroots sports development.

The opening ceremony is set at 8:30 a.m. today.

RP hosts under-14 ATF tennis tourney

SOME of Asia's finest teenaged players will see action in the Asian Tennis Federation (ATF) 14-under series slated June 28 to July 2 at the Yñares Socio-Cultural Sports Center in Pasig City.

The competition, open to boys and girls 11 to 14 years old, has already lured participants from Malaysia, Singapore and Japan, according to the Philippine Tennis Association (Philta).

Participants may register at the Philta office at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center until 5 p.m. Monday.

Deadline for registration for the singles event of the tournament backed by Wilson Double Core balls is 5 p.m. on June 27 and until 2 p.m. on June 28 for the doubles.

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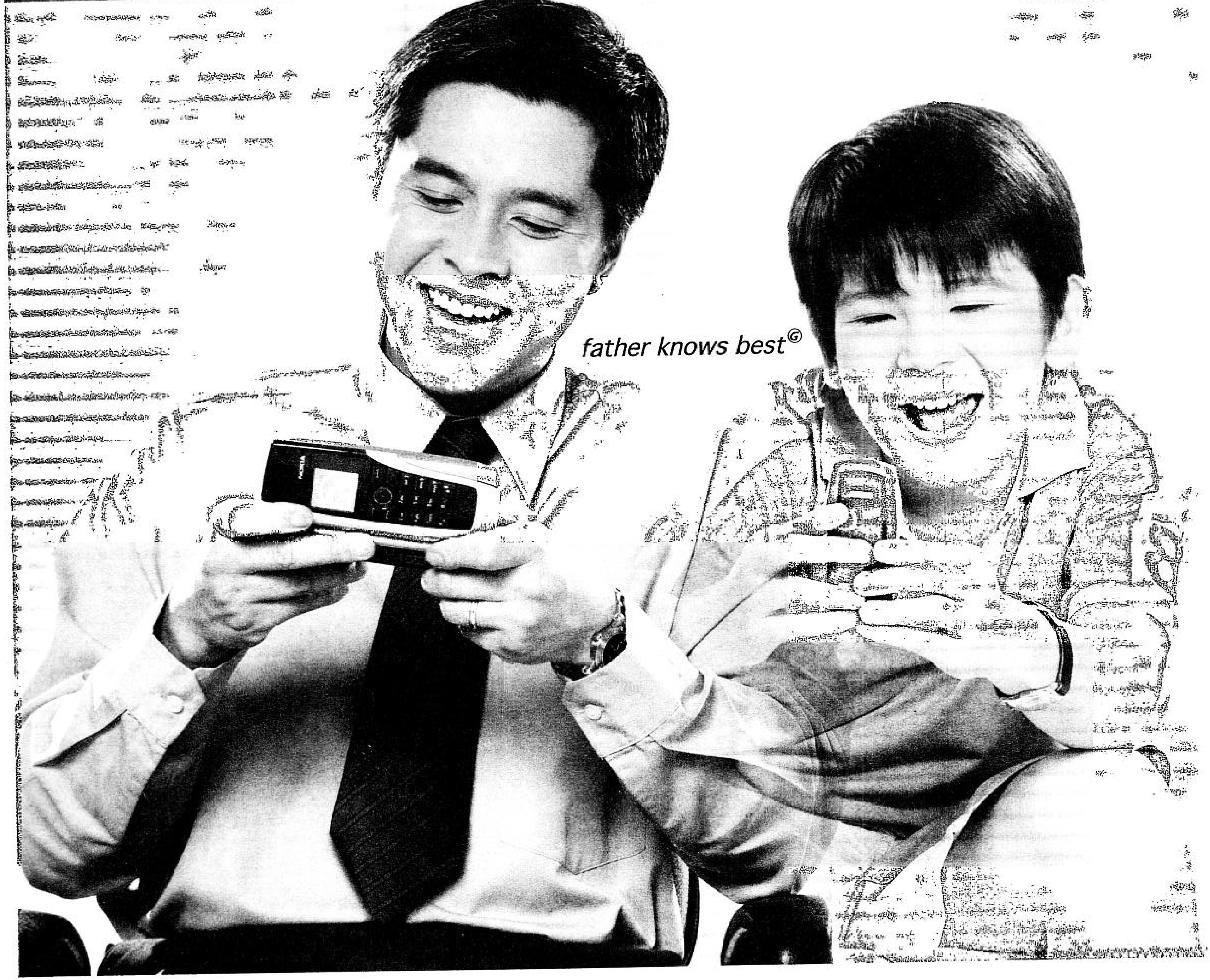

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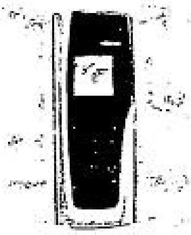	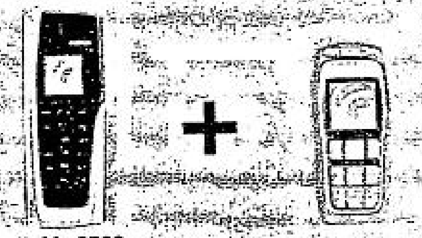	
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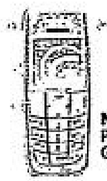
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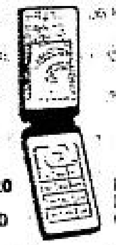
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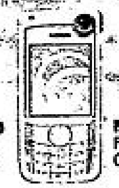
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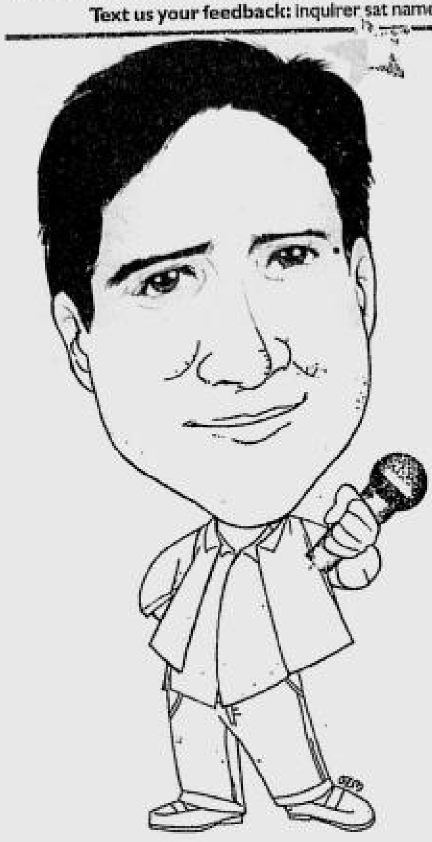

PASCUAL. His celebrity introduces the songmaker's very personal love songs to a new generation of music lovers.

Piolo pays tribute to Louie

By Rito P. Asilo

PIOLO Pascual works hard in "Renditions: Piolo Sings Louie O.," his latest effort as a singer and recording artist and, in some tracks, at least, the effort shows. We're not saying that he has magically transformed his high but thin voice into pipes of steel. But, he's come a long way.

The dashing star deserves credit for acknowledging his limitations by avoiding the vocal theatrics many actors-turned-singers usually resort to when they record their follow-up to their successful singles—in Piolo's case, "Kailangan Kita."

Light and leisurely

In the light and leisurely "Pansinin Mo Ako," for example, when Piolo attempts a tricky vocal improvisation and fails, he lends a certain *je ne sais quoi* playfulness and graciousness that show off his casual, less dour side, by giggling and apologizing for the gaffe: "Sorry, sorry," he gamely laughs at himself—on record! You can't be more upfront than that!

The minute a singer decides to remake a song popularized by a recording artist with superior vocal quality and technique, he instantly exposes himself to comparison—and, well, ridicule.

Instant recall for the familiar lyrics and radio-friendly melody may help notch brisk record sales, but unless the new singer delivers a better version, he'll run the risk of getting panned for recording a well-loved ditty that doesn't need to be reworked. As they say, if it ain't broke, don't fix it!

In Piolo's 10-track album, he waxes songs identified with Martin Nievera and Regine Velasquez ("Forever"), Joey Albert (Without You), Side A ("So Many Questions"), Gino Padilla ("Closer You and I") and Raymond Lauchengco ("Shadow of Time")—all of them better singers than he is.

But, the album's producers smartly mix and match new tracks with old, familiar tunes that are given distinctly different arrangements than their original versions—with mixed results:

Earnest rendition

Piolo comes off best in his carefully-phrased, earnest rendition of the Joey Albert classic, "Without You," and the simple but beautiful "Pansinin Mo Ako." (It has lyrics that say: *"O bakit ba naman ikaw at ang barkada mo/ 'Di n'yo mahalatang may hitsura din naman ako…?"* Oh come on, he's kidding, right?)

"Forever," on the other hand, sounds more pop, and less vocally strenuous than Martin and Regine's go-for-broke duet, but its tapping rhythmic groove feels dated, and saps the original's melodic urgency.

We also notice that Pascual has a tendency to do Nora Aunor-like grunts in between phrases: Listen to the chorus of "Closer You and I."

The most welcome remake in the album is "Shadow of Time," a Raymond Lauchengco, "Bagets"-era hit that is as lyrically beautiful as it is melodically classy. Piolo's voice may not have Lauchengco's classical timbre, but his earnestness and boy-next-door, heartthrob appeal enhance the dreamy quality of the song.—Although he couldn't seem to make up his mind which preposition to use in the line: "I'm standing in/on the shadow of time…" Oh, well.

More than showcasing Piolo's moderate improvement as a singer, however, "Renditions" reintroduces Louie Ocampo's charming and very personal love songs to a new generation of music lovers through the actor's celebrity. Now, that isn't such a bad thing!

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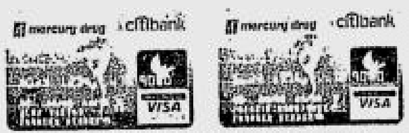

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Cocoy Laurel joins 'Caysasay' cast

By Nestor U. Torre

POPULAR musical theater star Cocoy Laurel has joined the cast of Ryan Caybyab's latest religious musical, "Mapaghimalang Birhen ng Caysasay," which will be performed from July 7 to 11 at the Little Theater of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, after which it will go on a performance tour of Batangas, Laguna, Quezon and other Luzon provinces.

Cocoy will alternate with Ogie Alcasid in the lead role of Haybing, a Chinese stonemason who in the 1600s was the recipient of one of the Virgin's most celebrated miraculous intercessions: He was brought back to life after being decapitated by his foes!

Dramatic scenes

Aside from performing in some very dramatic scenes, both Ogie and Cocoy will sing four moving and powerful songs composed by Cayabyab, in a long, climactic suite of scenes and songs that serve as the musical's finale.

Cocoy has been popular in the Philippines as a film, TV and theater star, and was acclaimed internationally when he was tapped to play the male lead role of The Engineer in Cameron Mackintosh's hit musical, "Miss Saigon," in London and Australia.

Since then, Cocoy has kept himself busy with a wide range of artistic involvements (aside from performing, he's a gifted visual artist). Why did he accept "Birhen ng Caysasay" executive producer Ramon Orlina's invitation to be a part of the new Marian musical?

"For a number of wonderful reasons," Cocoy beams. "First, I was immediately inspired by the musical's powerful story, and by the show's beautiful marriage of music, by Ryan, and lyrics (by Rito P. Asilo and Noelani Torre).

"Then, there's the fact that the Laurels are from Batangas, and so I feel a very close affinity to the 400-year old tradition of Our Lady of Caysasay, in beautiful Taal, Batangas—a place I love, because it's kept its charm and heritage for all these years.

Religious roots

"I'm also doing the show because it provides me with a much-needed opportunity to return to my religious roots, to the prayerful tradition inculcated in me by my father and mother, my grandmother and my mom's only living sister, who, at 92 years old, visited us when my father died, and urged me to resume my prayerful life. I'm performing in "Birhen ng Caysasay" because I want to give glory to Jesus and His Mother, who as the Virgin of Caysasay is our protectress and helpmeet as well."

Inspiration

"Finally, I'm honored to play Haybing, because his love for Our Lady, despite the fact that, initially, he wasn't even a Christian, is an inspiration to me. I hope that, through this musical, it will also serve as an inspiration to others, especially with its message of people praying together and living in peace, which is so important at this time of so much conflict and rancor."

True to his word, Cocoy is rehearsing long and hard to make the character of Haybing come movingly and dynamically to life on the CCP Little Theater stage. In the process, he is inspiring the newer members of the cast to be as professional as he is, and to love theater as much as he does!

LAUREL. Rehearsing the challenging lead role of Haybing, which he shares with Ogie Alcasid.

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CHRISTINE RECIO-
"Claire's super Strength Hair Grower works wonder to my falling, thinning hair"

Enterpreneur Christine Recio is now telling friends what Claire's new formula Perfect Skin Hair Grower did to her falling and thinning hair is nothing short of miracle.

"I used to have very thick, healthy hair," Christine recalls. "My problem started in 1987, when I first experience that my hair was falling by two hundred and more daily."

To Christine whose hair was then the envy of many, it was a traumatic experience to see her locks speedy diminishing. Just the taught of being a hairless lady scared her to the max.. "I cried everytime I shower seeing two hundred hairs on the drain".

In desperation, she had tried almost all the available hair grower tonic. But her hair problem simply become worse. She continued switching from one brand of hair grower to another.

"Until I finally decided to use one of the most popular and expensive tonic," Christine recounts. "It gave me false hopes for just a while. Hair fall, was minimize, but after a few days, more hair had been falling everytime I took a shower or just brushed my hair."

Christine's hair was already so thin when she read in the newspaper an item which featured Claire and her hair grower. She immediately went to a Skin Shop outlet and bought the set of Perfect Skin Hair Grower, Shampoo and Scalp Cleanser.

"I was lucky that Claire was in her store when I first went there," Christine beams. "She was so kind to give me advice and how to properly use her products."

Christine was again alarmed when she first apply the hair grower to her scalp. "There was still the usual hair fall. But Claire told me not to be afraid, since it was only normal and that results vary for every individual, she told me to just be patient. True enough, slowly the falling of my hair became less and less everyday until finally it stopped after a month of using it. I also noticed that after only a week of using it there were already new growths of small hair on my scalp ."Christine said with tears in her eyes.

Christine is so thankful to Claire for such encouraging results. Until now, more new hair are sprouting all over her head. Her hair falling problem is all gone.

"I like to share this experience to people who have the same problem that I had, " Christine volunteers. " It is really amazing how Perfect Skin Hair Grower, the new-super strength formula, has alleviate my longtime suffering."

(Perfect Skin Hair Grower products are available only at The Skin Shop Tel nos. 7244566, 6355041,7582431,7750648,8423306)

ADVT.

A look

From page A2-3

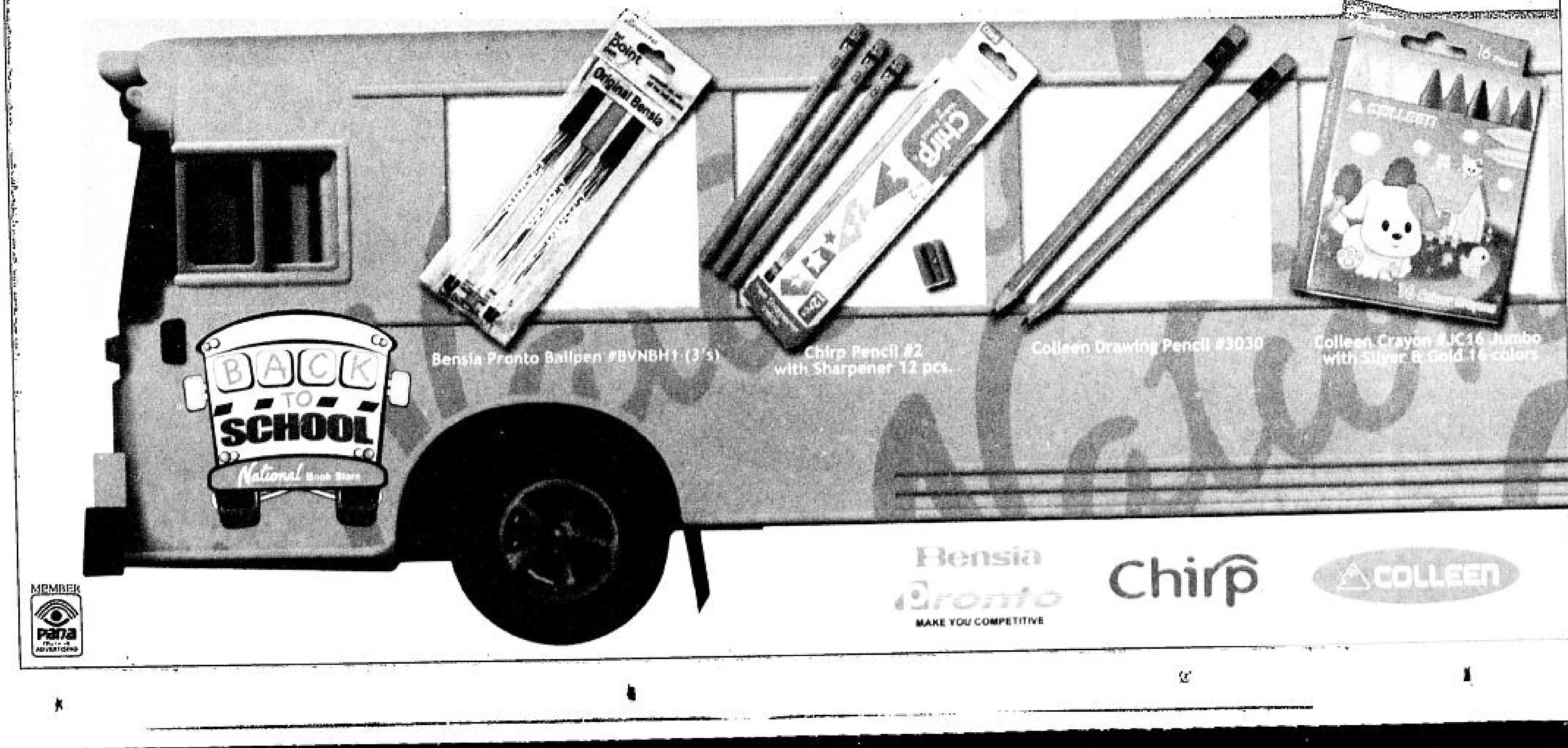
Philippines movements, which drew us back together.

Advocate

Joonee continues to appear in plays, and in local and foreign movies. Before her death, Adul became a prominent advocate of women's rights. By the early '70s, I was a disorganized but constant street marcher.

Not long ago, I thought of that night with Lorraine's. She may not remember it, but I do—and I tingle a little at her surprisingly insightful look into the future!

Ride to a brand new



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A look into the future

BROCKA. His rise to the top as filmmaker was written in the stars.

By Behn Cervantes

IN 1969, during a break in rehearsals for Arthur Miller's "The Crucible," the play's cast sat under a full moon to pass the time at Fort Santiago.

One of the actors was Lorraine Powell, who had just returned after studying in the States. Since she had been away for sometime, Lorraine hardly knew the cast members. That night, she offered to read my palm.

Age of Aquarius

Around us were Adul de Leon, Joonee Gamboa and Lino Brocka. Naturally, they were also interested in the future. After all, this was the Age of Aquarius!

Adul, Joonee, Lino and I were a quartet since our UP Dramatic Club days—we had become extremely close over the years. However, this was more than a decade after our initial bonding, and life-altering events had taken place in our lives.

Lorraine chose to read Adul's palm first. We didn't really take this "diversion" seriously, but we were interested, nevertheless. Lorraine took us by surprise when she asked: "Adul, are you married?" Adul replied: "No." Lorraine then looked at her and said, "But, I see a child!" Only intimate friends like Joonee, Lino and I were aware that Adul had a love child. (In the early '60s, such matters were hush-hush.)

Theater

After Adul admitted to the fact, Lorraine went on to predict that Adul would continue her work in theater, but that she would go into something else later in her career.

She then tackled Joonee's future, and stated that Joonee would succeed in the entertainment industry.

After Joonee, she read my palm and looked askance: "Your life will be politics, Behn!" Politics? Joonee, Adul, Lino and I exchanged perplexed looks because, at the time, "politics" meant the government, Congress or Senate! How could I ever be a part of those? Nobody had yet coined the phrase "Parliament of the Streets."

Then came Lino's turn. Lorraine carefully studied the lines in Lino's palm, and after a pregnant silence, said: "You will be very successful in an allied field, Lino! But, you will lose your friends." We didn't quite understand what she meant, then.

A few years later, Lino would direct "Wanted: Perfect Mother," which would lead to a string of critically-acclaimed movies here and abroad.

Unresolved reasons

In 1988, he was chosen one of the world' best directors by the British Film Academy. However, for unresolved reasons, he and Adul had a parting of ways. His friendship with Joonee also cooled. And Lino and I didn't talk to each other for 17 years—until Free the Artists, Free the Media and Concerned Artists of the

A LOOK/ A2-2

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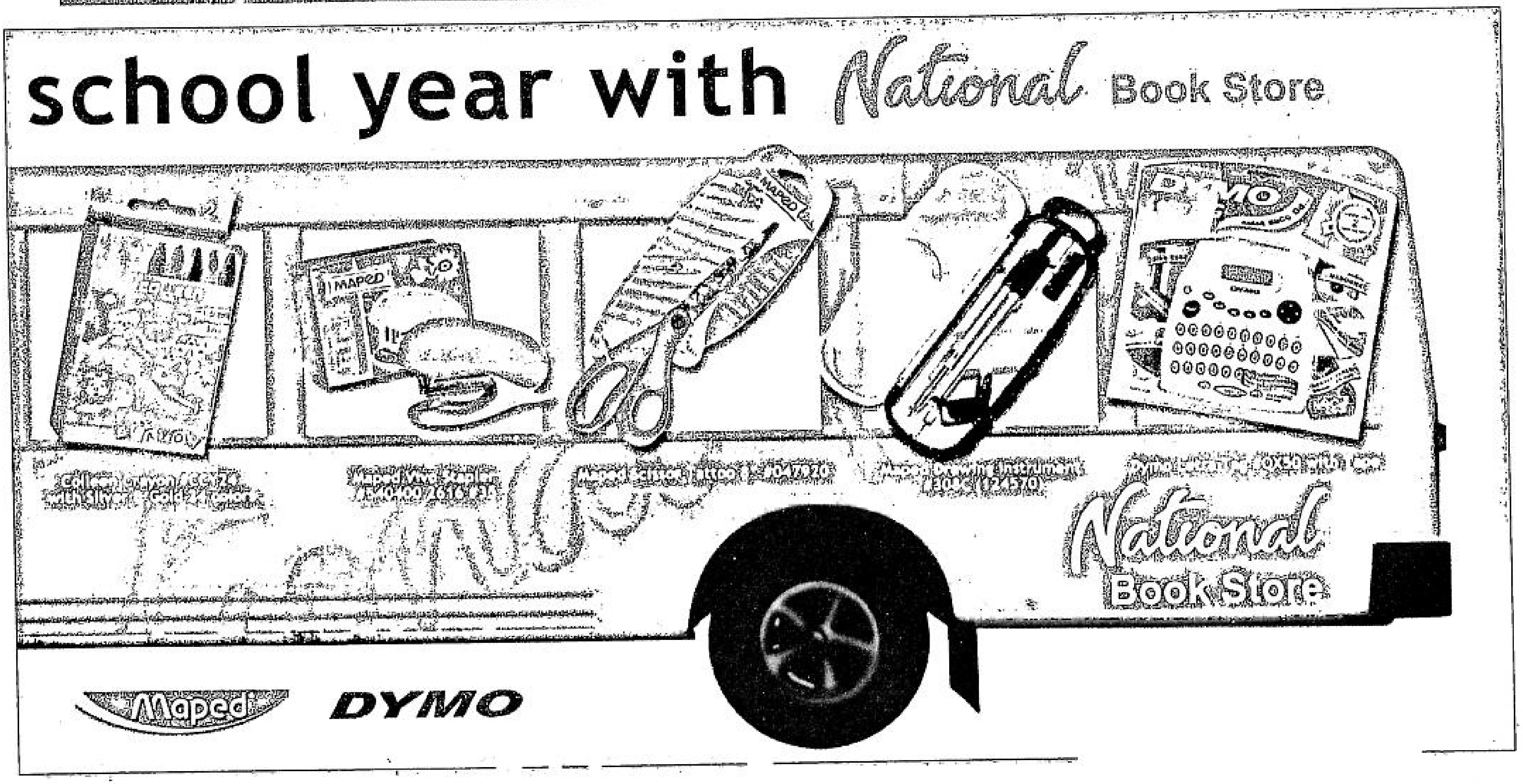

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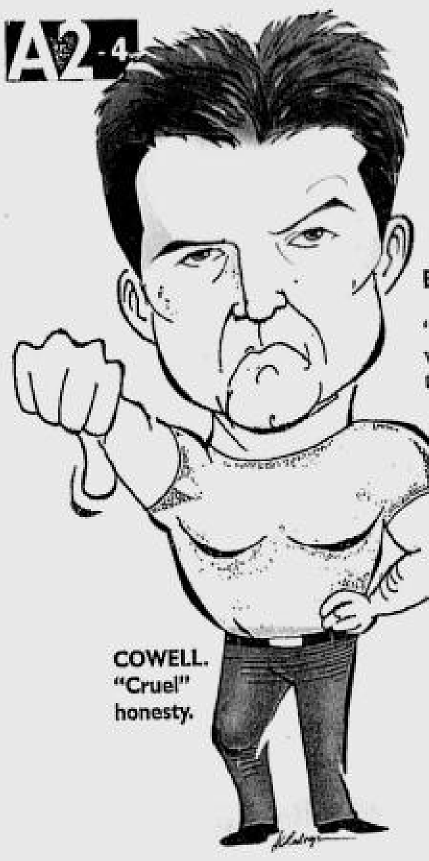

COWELL. "Cruel" honesty.

By Nestor U. Torre

"AMERICAN Idol" has introduced viewers around the world to the caustic "charms" of juror Simon Cowell. Many people are turned off by his acerbic put-downs of the trembling tyros who haplessly stumble into the cross-hairs of his vituperative disdain.

Even his co-juror, Randy Jackson, glumly observes, "Simon seems to get a surge out of trampling on people's dreams!"

For our part, we appreciate Cowell's "cruel" honesty, because it forces contestants to face up to their weak points, while there's still time to do something about them.

But, we dislike him when he's too calculating in his attention-calling and quotable cruelty: on more than one occasion, we've caught him using the same diatribe, word for word, which suggests that some of his pithy comments are cynically scripted for effect, rather than insightfully spontaneous.

Media star

In any case, Cowell has become such a media star and lightning rod in his own right that some people want to know more about him—specifically, about aspects to his "back story" that could explain what he's become today, and why. Some hopefully helpful bio bits:

Cowell was born in 1959 in Brighton, England, to a well-off couple, who had previously been married to other people, and had separate batches of children of their own, before they jointly "produced" Simon and his kid brother.

Media observers surmise that this crowded and competitive "my, yours and ours" family situation compelled Simon to become assertive and colorfully argumentative early in his life.

Cowell admits that he was never one for school, so he started working at an early age, as a lowly mail-room clerk at EMI Music. After two years of drudgery, he dared to turn record producer with hardly any money. His daring gamble paid off, but only for a time: By the time he turned 30, the young high-flying recording executive was bankrupt!

But that early failure didn't keep him down for good. He bounced back by producing albums inspired by TV shows, and he really hit his stride when he discovered the popular boy band, Westlife.

Talent search

Moving on to television, Cowell hit another bullseye when he conceptualized and produced "Popstars," a talent search for bands. But, he really hit the jackpot with "Pop Idol," a televised talent show that enabled viewers to vote for their favorite contestant. This inspired move into participatory television was such an overwhelming success that it enabled Cowell to "invade" US TV with "American Idol"—and the rest is (pop) history.

Other notes on Simon Cowell: Some viewers and disgruntled contestants think he's gay, but his longtime girlfriend, Teri Seymour, swears he isn't. She helps "explain" why her man is the way he is: "Simon is in the business of coming up with new, creative ideas, which make him a lot of money. He's always looking out for the next big thing, the next trend and hit on the horizon, and spots and exploits it before anybody else!"

Finally, Cowell on Cowell: "I'm very, very, very competitive. And I'm only happy when I'm winning!"—He must be absolutely ecstatic right now!

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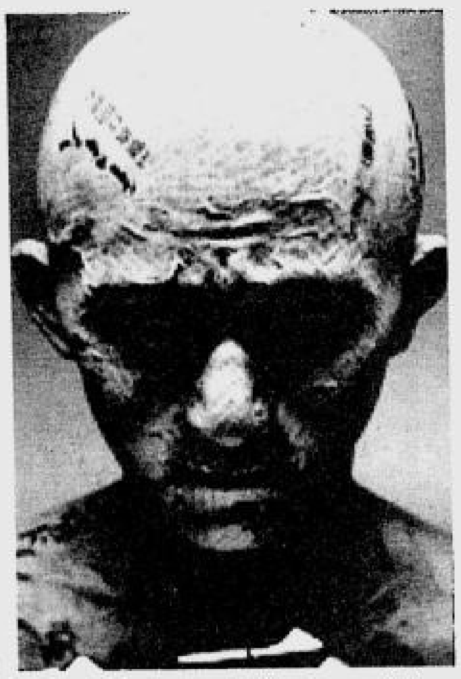


TAKA Ichise's creepy thriller has a terrifying build-up and a deliberate pace.

No cheap thrills in 'Premonition'

By Noelani Torre

"PREMONITION," the second film in producer Taka Ichise's six-film series "J-Horror Theater," serves to underscore what international audiences have been realizing—that no one does horror quite like the Japanese!

Ichise, the producer of such scare-fests as "Ring" and "Ju-on (The Grudge)," has brought together the works of six horror meisters in the aforementioned project, including that of Takashi Shimizu, Hideo Nakata, Kiyoshi Kurosawa and Norio Tsuruta, the director of this particular installment in the series.

Tsuruta, also the director of "Ring 0," keeps the pace slow and measured. You won't find any cheap thrills here, and, unlike in "Ring" or "Ju-on," there is no angry, long-haired female ghost haunting its characters.

News clipping

"Premonition" tells the tale of Hideki Satomi (Hiroshi Mikami), a university professor who reads a tattered news clipping in a phone booth detailing the death of his five-year-old daughter—who is still very much alive and sitting in a car with his wife just across the street. As the film's title suggests, the article serves as a forewarning, one that Satomi heeds too late when he and his wife watch their daughter burn to death soon after.

The story resumes three years later, where we see him divorced from his wife and still grieving for his daughter. Meanwhile, his wife has been conducting her own research into the "newspaper of terror" phenomenon, and realizes that what her husband had been going crazy about three years before is actually true! The mystery continues to unfold when he receives another newspaper warning, and they seek each other's help.

The build-up is slow and the pace deliberate, putting the emphasis on the characters' condition, and the bizarre mystery that surrounds them. In fact, it is the mystery aspect of horror that is highlighted here, especially as the narrative soon becomes nonlinear.

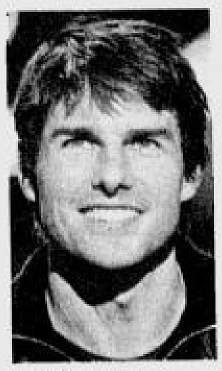
There's hardly any gore or sudden appearances—we can count the instances of actual fright on one hand—but the movie nevertheless remains effective, conveying tension via the spare use of sound effects, and not through scream-inducing thrills.

Disjointed performance

Actor Hiroshi Mikami delivers a rather disjointed performance, however. There are times when he's particularly effective as a tormented man. Sometimes, however, he's so ineffective that he actually induces laughter instead of sympathy.

"Premonition" is not the kind of horror film that will have you gibbering with terror at the edge of your seat. It will have you sitting quite comfortably, but with a weird feeling in your stomach. It's subtle—and subtlety isn't something that often works in horror, *but* it works here!

The effect it wants to achieve is creepy, not terrifying, so if you're looking to be frightened witless, then this isn't the film for you. If you're weary of gore-fests and cheap thrills, however, then "Premonition" is the film to see.



CRUISE. Third installment of his popular action franchise will be directed by JJ Abrams.

Cruise, Paramount reach deal on 'MI 3'

LOS ANGELES— After more than a week of haggling over costs, Tom Cruise and Paramount Pictures have reached a deal that will allow "Mission: Impossible 3" to move ahead with filming in Italy.

Paramount Pictures chairman Brad Grey announced the agreement in a recent statement. Filming will start on July 18 on the third installment in the action-adventure series, which is a remake of a popular 1960s TV show.

The film will be directed by J.J. Abrams, who joined the project last August, and will be produced by Cruise and his partner, Paula Wagner.

Collaboration

"Tom's history with Paramount has made for one of Hollywood's most successful relationships; the opportunity to continue our collaboration with him on 'Mission: Impossible 3' is everything anyone in show business could hope for," Grey said.

The deal fell into place after Cruise agreed to adjust his lucrative profit-participation deal, and shave a budget that had swelled to as much as $185 million, the Los Angeles Times reported.

The movie will feature Cruise and co-stars Ving Rhames, Jonathan Rhys Meyers, Michelle Monaghan. and Philip Seymour Hoffman, and is set for release on May 5, 2006.

The first "Mission: Impossible" movie came out in 1996, and was directed by Brian De Palma. John Woo directed "Mission: Impossible II," which was released in 2000. *AP*

Big . . .

From page A2-6

"The Freshman." June 14 at 12:35 p.m., "8 Mile." 8 p.m., "Mona Lisa Smile." June 15 at 9:25 a.m., "And Starring Pancho Villa as Himself."

On Cinemax, June 11 at 5:30 p.m., "Owning Mahoney." June 12 at 6:30 p.m., "Empire of the Sun." June 13 at 2:30 p.m., "Orange County." June 14 at 10 a.m., "American Crime." June 15 at 9:45 a.m., "Reality Bites."

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2 (DOLBY)	MR. & MRS. SMITH PG13
3 (DOLBY)	MADAGASCAR GP
4 (DOLBY)	CHINESE FILM FESTIVAL

PREMIERE

(DOLBY)	A LOT LIKE LOVE PG13P

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3 (DTS)	MADAGASCAR
4 GOLD (DTS)	STARWARS: EPISODE-3
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	HOUSE OF WAX
6 GOLD (SDDS)	A LOT LIKE LOVE
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	MR. & MRS. SMITH
8 ([illegible])	SHUTTER
9 ([illegible])	SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
10 ([illegible])	PRMONITION

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3 (DOLBY)	MR. & MRS. SMITH
4 (DOLBY)	A LOT LIKE LOVE

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1	SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
2 (DTS)	UNLEASHED
3 (DOLBY)	MR. & MRS. SMITH
4	HOUSE OF WAX

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(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

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2 (DOLBY)	MR. & MRS. SMITH
3 (DTS)	UNLEASHED
4	HOUSE OF WAX

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	MADAGASCAR
2	SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
3 (DOLBY)	STARWARS: EPISODE-3

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
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1	MADAGASCAR
2	SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
3 (DOLBY)	HOUSE OF WAX
4 (DTS)	STARWARS: EPISODE-3

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1	MR. & MRS. SMITH
2	MADAGASCAR
3 (DOLBY)	SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME

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3	MR. & MRS. SMITH
4	PREMONITION

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2	MR. & MRS. SMITH
3	GRACIA

Universal
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1	GRACIA

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1	RESERVED
2	RESERVED
3	GRACIA
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	MR. & MRS. SMITH
5	SIN CITY

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	HOUSE OF WAX
2	SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
3 (DTS EX)	MR. & MRS. SMITH
4	RING OF NIBELONGS

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	HUT UP & KISS ME
2	GRACIA
3	ANAKAN MO AKO
4 (DTS)	JACKET

Lianas MovieCity
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1 (DOLBY)	UNLEASHED
2	LIBERATED-1
3 (DTS)	MR. & MRS. SMITH
4	SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
5	HOUSE OF WAX

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1	SIN CITY
2	GRACIA
3	RESERVED
4	RESERVED
5 (DOLBY)	MR. & MRS. SMITH
6	SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1	SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
2	MADAGASCAR
3 (DOLBY)	MR. & MRS. SMITH
4 (DTS)	HOUSE OF WAX

Mega Center Mall
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1	HOUSE OF WAX
2	COACH CARTER
3 (DTS)	SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
4 (DOLBY)	STARWARS: EPISODE-3

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1	SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
2	BOOGEYMAN
3 (DOLBY)	THE INTERPRETER
4 (DTS)	STARWARS: EPISODE-3

Fiesta World Mall
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2	SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
3	MADAGASCAR
4	SHAOLIN VS' EVILDEAD

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(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007

1 (DOLBY)	THE JACKET
2	RESERVED

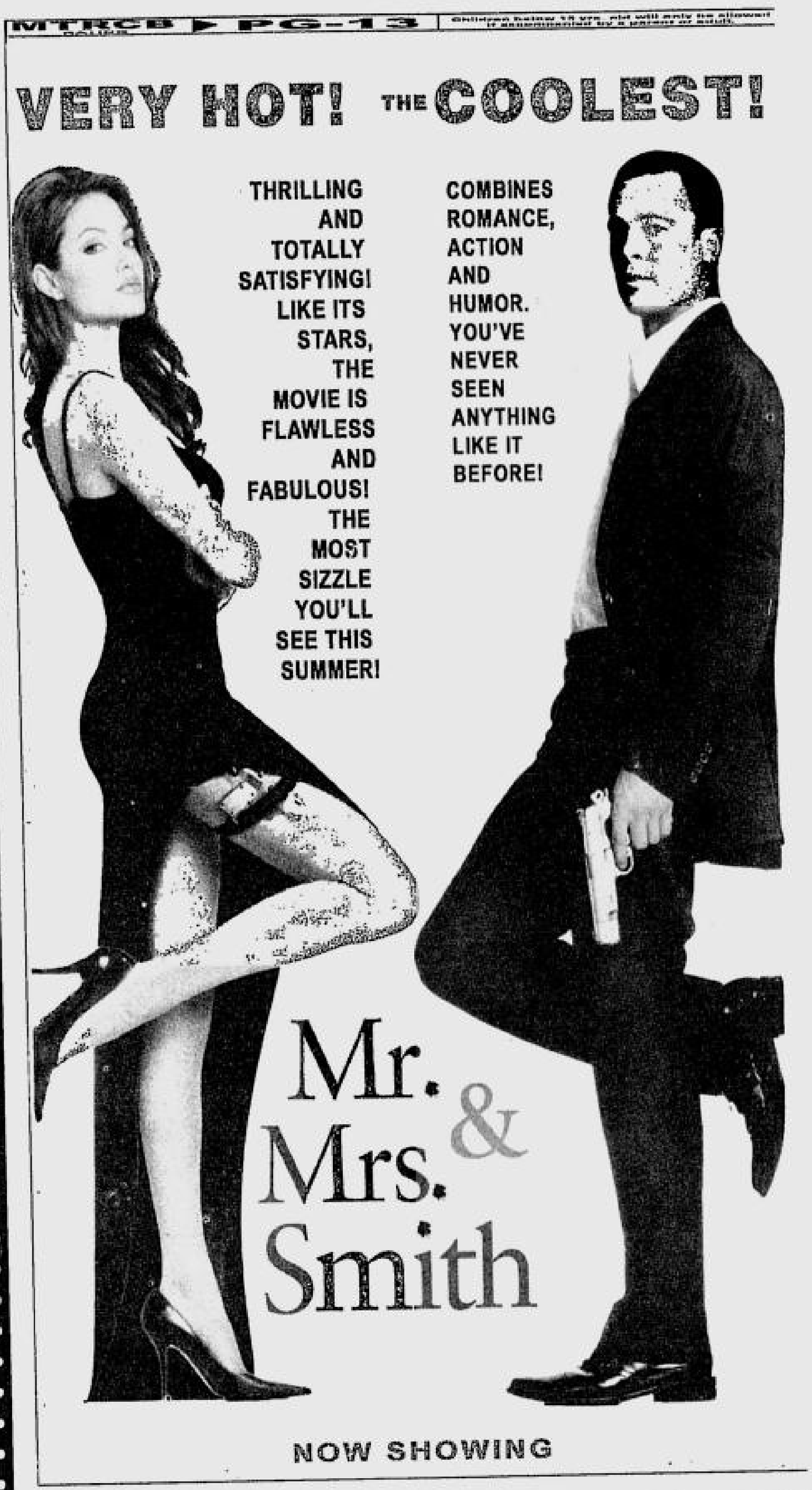
Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	STARWARS: EPISODE-3
2	SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	GRACIA
2	SIX

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE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A LOT LIKE LOVE 12:30 / 2:50 / 5:10 / 7:30 / 9:50	STAR WARS - EPISODE III 12:30 / 3:30 / 6:30 / 9:30
SIN CITY 12:50 / 3:35 / 6:20 / 9:05	MR & MRS SMITH 12:20 / 1:00 / 1:40 / 3:10 / 3:50 / 4:30 6:00 / 6:40 / 7:20 / 8:50 / 9:30 / 10:10
PREMONITION 12:00 / 2:15 / 4:30 / 6:45 / 9:00	
COACH CARTER 12:40 / 3:00	GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA MR & MRS SMITH

3RD INTERNATIONAL PINK FILM FESTIVAL: June 3 - 12, 2005
4:00pm BATH HOUSE 6:30pm MGA PUSANG GALA / CACHORRO (BEAR CLUB) 9:00pm LOS NOVIOS BULGAROS / OOH!

ALI MALL CINEMAS

❶ SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME 11:00 / 1:20 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 8:20	❹ GRACIA 12:00 / 2:05 / 4:10 / 6:15 / 8:20
❷ MR & MRS SMITH 12:00 / 2:55 / 5:50 / 8:45	❺ SHUT UP & KISS ME 12:10 / 2:10 / 4:10 / 6:10 / 8:10
❸ SIN CITY 12:00 / 2:45 / 5:30 / 8:15	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS

HILLSONG - REUBEN MORGAN LIVE *June 11, Sat. 4-6pm Worship Seminar 7-9pm Worship*	*June 14, 16 & 18* 2005 WORLD SLASHER CUP INVITATIONAL 8-COCK DERBY
SOUTH BORDER CONCERT - INDEPENDENT *June 24, Friday, 8pm*	NCAA OPENING CEREMONIES *June 25, Saturday*

CENTER EVENTS

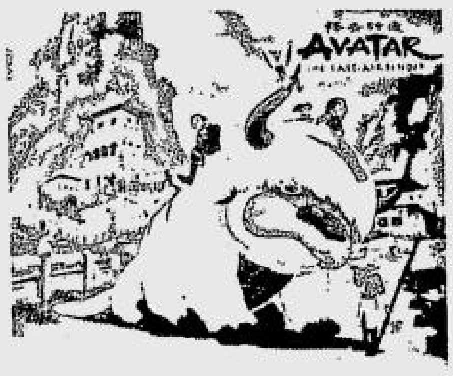
PROMOS	*Buy a **Skechers** and get 50% off on your next pair at **FUSION** on the Third Floor of Farmers Plaza. Plus, up to 50% off on selected **Merrell** footwear and **No Fear** apparel.*
EXHIBITS	*The **7th Philippine Eagle Week** takes off at the Upper Ground Floor Activity Area of Gateway Mall. Featuring the **Eagle Eyes Photo Exhibit** from June 6 to 12. Plus, **FREE** wildlife lectures, fun games and face painting on June 11 & 12.*

LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

Big shows on Nickelodeon

MONTAGE

NICKELODEON gets you revved up with three big shows: on June 12, the "Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards (KCA), 2005" in Los Angeles, California, USA, with host Ben Stiller and screen idols Halle Berry, Cameron Diaz, Simon Cowell and Paula Abdul. Plus the KCA Philippines awards show last May 29.



"AVATAR." Amazing adventures into the world of Water, Air and Fire.

On June 12, 15, 17 and 25, a sneak peek into "Avatar, the Last Airbender" and its amazing adventures into the world of Water, Air and Fire, highlighting the powers of little boy Avatar, waterbender Katara and her warrior brother, Sokka, as they set off on a perilous journey to save the world.

And, beginning June 25, new and exciting adventures and inventions in "The Adventures of Jimmy Neutron." Plus Nick's Double Decker weekends; on weekdays, catch "Dora the Explorer," "Little Bear," "Franklin," "Blue's Clues," "Miss Spider's Sunny Patch Friends" and "The Backyardigans."

Log on to www.nicksplat.com for more details.

Fun time with celebrity moms

Janice de Belen, Suzi Entrata-Abrera, Sherilyn Reyes and their kids recently enjoyed an afternoon of fun and entertainment with other families at the grand opening of GBox Kiddie Activity Center at Robinsons Galleria's Dreamscape amusement center.

The safe and modern child-care center offers first-class learning and play equipment and materials. They include the *bridge tunnel* for crawling, climbing and slide balance; *basketball ring* for enhancing kids' motor skills and eye coordination; educational toys, and riding toys to develop strength, balance and speed.

REYES, Abrera and De Belen at opening of GBox Kiddie Activity Center.

Call 6636-2911 or 631-7594.

Album signing

Pop singer Daniel Bedingfield will sign albums on June 14 at The Podium, Ortigas Center. He is promoting his June 15 concert at NBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio. Opening acts are April Villanueva and The Akafellas.

Movies on TV

On HBO, June 11 at 4:05 p.m., "Anger Management." June 12 at 11:05 a.m., "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind." 8 p.m., "The Big Preview: Batman Begins." June 13 at 2:10 p.m.,

BIG/ A2-5

SM CINEMA movietime

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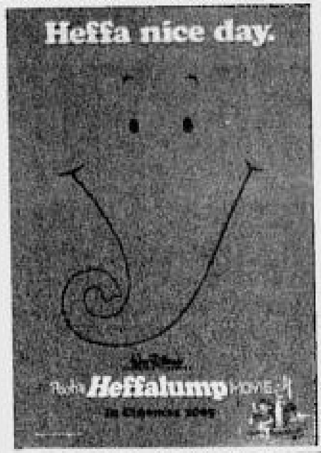

GUARANTEED SEATS

the podium cinema
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH [illegible]
2 MADAGASCAR [illegible]
633-8976

megamall cinema 1
A LOT LIKE LOVE
12:10PS / 12:40NF / 02:55 / 05:10 / 07:25 / 09:05LFS / 09:40LMF / 11:20END
633-1901

cebu cinema 1
1 SIN CITY [illegible]
2 STARWARS: EPISODE III [illegible]
3 MR. & MRS. SMITH [illegible]

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sm megamall
1 A LOT LIKE LOVE
2 SIN CITY
3 MR. & MRS. SMITH
4 STARWARS: EPISODE III
5 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
7 SHUTTER
8 ARE WE THERE YET?
9 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
10 MR. & MRS. SMITH
11 PREMONITION
12 MADAGASCAR

sm city fairview
1 ANG LAGUSAN
2 MR. & MRS. SMITH
3 HOUSE OF WAX
4 STARWARS: EPISODE II
5 SHUTTER
6 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
7 MR. 7 MRS. SMITH
8 MADAGASCAR
9 SIN CITY
10 PREMONITION
11 UNLEASHED
12 A LOT LIKE LOVE

sm north edsa
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
2 MADAGASCAR
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
5 PREMONITION
6 A LOT LIKE LOVE
7 LA VISA LOCA
8 MR. & MS. SMITH

sm city manila
1 UNLEASHED
2 STARWARS: EPISODE III
3 MR. & MRS. SMITH
4 MR. & MRS. SMITH
5 MADAGASCAR
6 MR. & MRS. SMITH
7 A LOT LIKE LOVE
8 HOUSE OF WAX
9 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
10 SIN CITY
11 SHUTTER
12 PREMONITION

sm city sta mesa
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
2 MADAGASCAR
3 STARWARS: EPISODE III
4 SIN CITY
5 MR & MRS. SMITH
6 SHUTTER
7 A LOT LIKE LOVE
8 SHUT UP AND KISS ME
9 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
10 PREMONITION

sm city southmall
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
2 MADAGASCAR
3 STARWARS: EPISODE III
4 MR. & MRS,S MITH
5 SHUTTER
6 PREMONITION
7 SIN CITY
8 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
9 A LOT LIKE LOVE
10 POOH'S HEFFALUMP

sm cinema tutuban
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

sm supercenter sucat
1 SHUTTER
2 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
3 MR. & MRS. SMITH
4 SIN CITY

sm city bicutan
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
2 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
3 MADAGASCAR
4 SIN CITY

LUZON

sm city pampanga
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
2 MR. & MRS. SMITH
3 MADAGASCAR
4 UNLEASHED
5 HOUSE OF WAX
6 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME

sm city bacoor
1 MADAGASCAR
2 COACH CARTER
3 MR. & MRS. SMITH
4 SIN CITY
5 MR. & MRS. SMITH
6 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
7 SHUTTER
8 STARWARS: EPISODE III

sm city dasmariñas
1 UNLEASHED
2 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
3 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
4 MR. & MRS. SMITH

sm city baguio
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
2 MADAGASCAR
3 GUESS WHO
4 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR

sm city marilao
1 UNLEASHED
2 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
3 A LOT LIKE LOVE
4 MR. & MRS. SMITH

sm city lucena
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
2 SHAOLIN VS EVIL
3 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
4 STARWARS: EPISODE III

sm city cagayan de oro
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
2 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
3 MADAGASCAR
4 MR. & MRS. SMITH

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

sm city cebu
1 SIN CITY
2 STARWARS: EPISODE III
3 MR. & MRS. SMITH
4 MADAGASCAR
5 BOOGEYMAN
6 COACH CARTER
7 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
8 MR. & MRS. SMITH

sm city iloilo
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
2 RESERVED
3 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
4 MADAGASCAR
5 HEAD IN THE CLOUDS
6 MR. & MRS. SMITH
7 RESERVED
8 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR

sm city davao
1 MR. & MRS. SMITH
2 STARWARS: EPISODE III
3 UNLEASHED
4 THE AMITYVILLE HORRO
5 MADAGASCAR
6 MR. & MRS. SMITH

sm city batangas
1 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
2 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
3 MR. & MRS. SMITH
4 UNLEASHED

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① MR.& MRS. SMITH
MTRCB PG-13
1:15, 4:10, 7:05, 10:00

③ MADAGASCAR
MTRCB GP
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

② MR.& MRS. SMITH
MTRCB PG-13
12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30

④ CHINESE FILM FESTIVAL

PREMIERE THEATRE A LOT LIKE LOVE
MTRCB PG-13 11:25, 2:00, 4:35, 7:10, 9:50
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1 MADAGASCAR
10:50, 1:00, 3:05
5:20, 7:25, 10:15
GP

2 MR. & MRS. SMITH
11:05, 2:05, 5:05
8:05, 11:05
PG-13

3 MR. & MRS. SMITH
10:35, 1:35, 4:35
7:35, 10:30
PG-13

4 A LOT LIKE LOVE
12:30, 3:05, 5:40
8:15, 10:50
PG-13

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A LOT LIKE LOVE PG13 12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40,10:00	MR. AND MRS. SMITH PG13 1:30,4:20,7:10,10:00	MADAGASCAR GP 11:40,1:40,3:40, 5:40,7:40,9:40
MR. AND MRS. SMITH PG13 1:00,3:50,6:40,9:30	SIN CITY R13 12:30,3:00,5:30,8:00,10:25	MR. AND MRS. SMITH PG13 11:10,2:00,4:50,7:40,10:30

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PG13
10:00, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00

CINEMA 2 MADAGASCAR
GP
12:15, 2:25, 4:35, 6:45, 9:00

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CINEMA 3 A LOT LIKE LOVE
PG13
12:10, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15

CINEMA 4 MR. & MRS. SMITH
PG13
10:55, 1:55, 4:55, 7:55, 11:00

CINEMA 5 MR. & MRS. SMITH
PG13
10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	1	PREMONITION
	2	MR. & MRS. SMITH
	3	SIN CITY
	4	SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1	MADAGASCAR
	2	A LOT LIKE LOVE
	3 THX	MR. & MRS. SMITH 12:45, 3:25, 6:05, 8:45 GUARANTEED SEATS
	4	SIN CITY
	5	STAR WARS EP. 3
	6	MR. & MRS. SMITH
	7	SHUTTER
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1	FRENCH SPRING FILM FESTIVAL
	2	MR. & MRS. SMITH 11:00, 1:20, 4:00, 6:40, 9:20
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX	MR. & MRS. SMITH 12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:40 GUARANTEED SEATS
	2 THX	MR. & MRS. SMITH 2:00, 4:40, 10:00 GUARANTEED SEATS
	3	MADAGASCAR 1 30, 3 30, 5 30, 7 30 9 30, 11 30 GUARANTEED SEATS
	4	STAR WARS EP. 3 12 30, 3 15, 6 00/ MR. & MRS. SMITH 8 40, 11 20 GUARANTEED SEATS
	5	A LOT LIKE LOVE 12 35, 2 45, 4 55, 7 05, 9 15, 11 25 GUARANTEED SEATS
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1 MR. AND MRS. SMITH • THX
1:15 4:00 6:45 9:30
2 MR. AND MRS. SMITH
11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00
3 SHUT UP AND KISS ME
12:20 2:40 5:00 7:20 9:40
4 STAR WARS Episode III
12:40 3:40 6:40 9:40
5 A LOT LIKE LOVE
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
6 MADAGASCAR
1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00
7 HOUSE OF WAX
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
8 PREMONITION
1:05 3:20 5:35 7:50 10:00
9 SIN CITY
1:40 4:20 7:00 9:40
10 SHUTTER
1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30 9:40

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 MR. AND MRS. SMITH 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
2 SHUTTER
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
3 MADAGASCAR
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
4 PREMONITION
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
5 SHUT UP AND KISS ME 12:00 1:50
MR. AND MRS. SMITH 4:10 6:40 9:10
6 A LOT LIKE LOVE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
7 SIN CITY
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 / 682-8199

1 SHUTTER
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00
2 MADAGASCAR
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00
3 A LOT LIKE LOVE
12:05 2:20 4:30 6:45 9:00
4 STAR WARS Episode III
12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00
5 SIN CITY
12:50 3:35 6:20 9:10
6 SHUT UP AND KISS ME
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00
7 MR. AND MRS. SMITH
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
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2 THE INTERPRETER
3 STAR WARS Episode III
4 GRACIA

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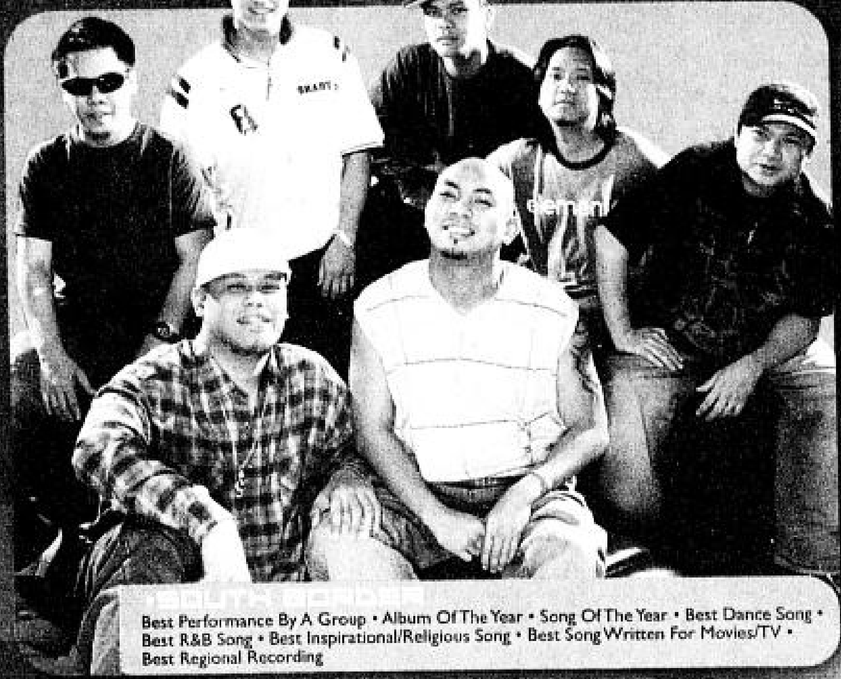
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Hallelujah	Bamboo	102884
These Days	Bamboo	102729
Masaya	Bamboo	102726
Hwag na Hwag Mong Sasabihin	Kitchie Nadal	102111
Same Ground	Kitchie Nadal	102591
Bulong	Kitchie Nadal	102193
Run	Kitchie Nadal	102112
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ROOSTER. Boyish good looks and a flair for rock music.

Rooster has something to crow about

By Noelani Torre

THE guys from rock band, Rooster *don't* look like rock star wannabes. Sure, the hair's fringy, the jeans loose, and the shirts are grungy, but there's no denying the fact that they still look like a boy band—albeit one that borrowed Jon Bon Jovi's stylist.

Nevertheless, boyish good looks notwithstanding, Rooster doesn't sound like a boy band. It's Free and Aerosmith that they aspire to, not Westlife and Boyzone—and after listening to their self-titled debut, we can tell you that they just might get there.

Next big thing

Made up of four lads from London—Nick Atkinson (vocals), Luke Potashnick (guitar), Ben Smyth (bass/backing vocals), and Dave Neale (drums)—Rooster has something to crow about—what with sold-out tours, two singles in the UK Top 10, a Top 3 album, and being dubbed "the next big thing!"

"We want to bring back stadium rock," says guitarist Potashnick. "No modern, young band is trying to do that anymore. We want to remind people of the craft, spirit and sheer excitement of music that works in your heart and mind, and blows you away on the big stage!"

We weren't exactly blown away by Rooster's "Rooster"—though they count Page and Plant among their influences, they're no Led Zeppelin—but, the talent is there, and so is that good, old rock and roll attitude.

Originality

There may not be a lot of originality in this Brit foursome—not in their music, their goal (The Darkness, anyone?), or even their name (ever heard of Atomic Rooster?)—but, their songs are good. They have a real love for the material of those who've gone before them—and they know how to rock!

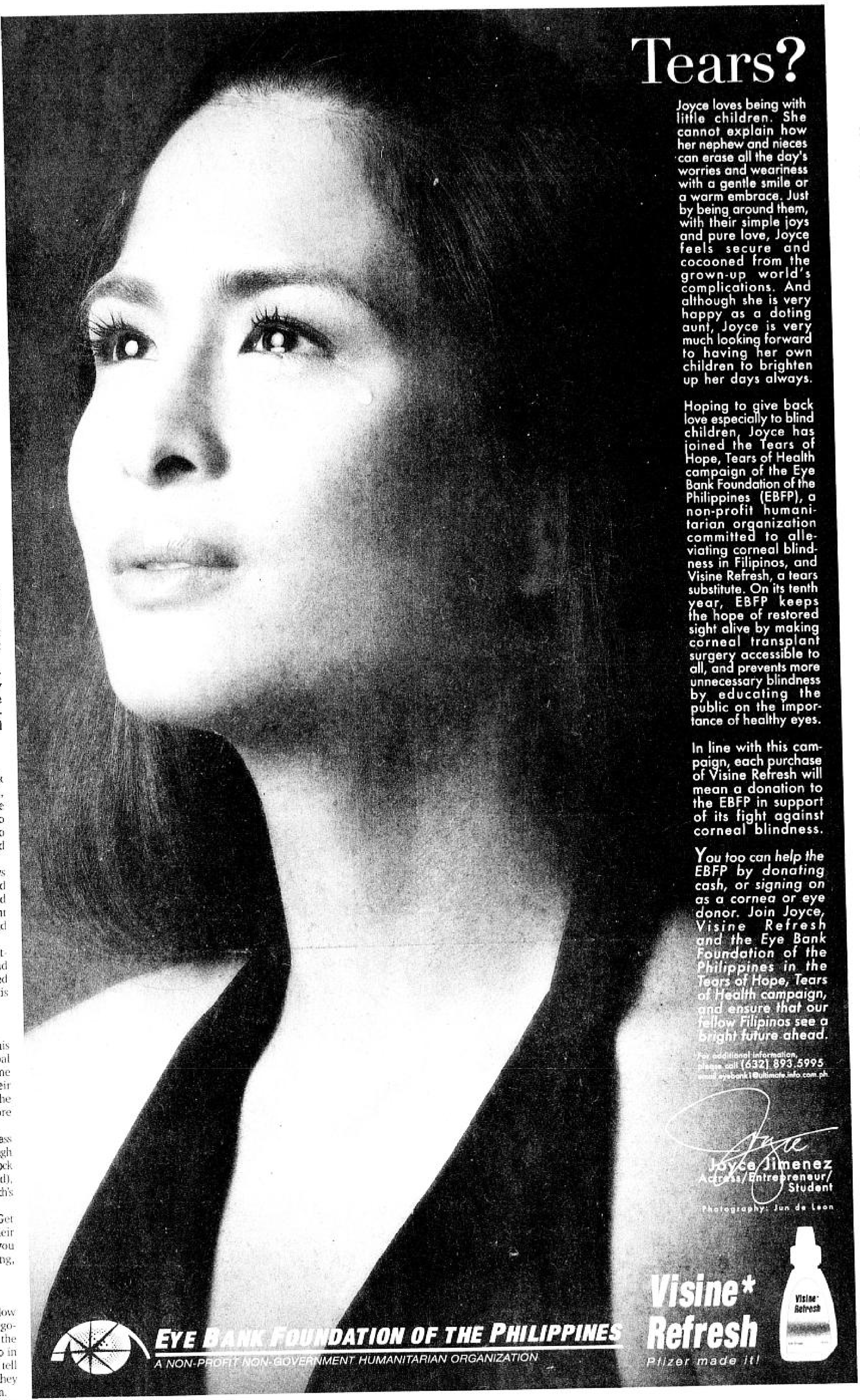
"Rooster" is filled with heavy riffs, driving bass lines, and big choruses. Atkinson's voice is rough enough to add grit to otherwise ho-hum lyrics (rock clichés like "shout it from the rooftops" abound), Potashnick's guitar is sharp and steely, and Smyth's bass is forceful and heavy.

At their best—as in songs like "Come Get Some" and "Drag the Sunrise Down"—their stomping, hook-laden playing will reel you right in. You'll find yourself singing along, whether you like it or not!

Highlight

Unfortunately, though their ballads allow you to take a breather, they don't have much going for them. They only serve to highlight the fact that the band still has a long way to go in the lyric-writing department, and they also tell us that, though they deny boy band-hood, they still want the profitable perks of pop stardom.

Still, at the end of the day, the fact is that Rooster is a band that has a lot of talent and promise going for it.



Tears?

Joyce loves being with little children. She cannot explain how her nephew and nieces can erase all the day's worries and weariness with a gentle smile or a warm embrace. Just by being around them, with their simple joys and pure love, Joyce feels secure and cocooned from the grown-up world's complications. And although she is very happy as a doting aunt, Joyce is very much looking forward to having her own children to brighten up her days always.

Hoping to give back love especially to blind children, Joyce has joined the Tears of Hope, Tears of Health campaign of the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines (EBFP), a non-profit humanitarian organization committed to alleviating corneal blindness in Filipinos, and Visine Refresh, a tears substitute. On its tenth year, EBFP keeps the hope of restored sight alive by making corneal transplant surgery accessible to all, and prevents more unnecessary blindness by educating the public on the importance of healthy eyes.

In line with this campaign, each purchase of Visine Refresh will mean a donation to the EBFP in support of its fight against corneal blindness.

You too can help the EBFP by donating cash, or signing on as a cornea or eye donor. Join Joyce, Visine Refresh and the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines in the Tears of Hope, Tears of Health campaign, and ensure that our fellow Filipinos see a bright future ahead.

For additional information, please call (632) 893.5995
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Joyce Jimenez
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The Boss is back

By Nestor U. Torre

EVER since he launched his performing and composing career some decades ago, Bruce Springsteen has crafted and sung songs that articulate, not roseate romantic fantasies, but the realities of life.

This uniquely engaged and engaging thrust has made some of his songs veritable anthems of struggling, searching youth for several generations, and this has in turn prompted his rapt and grateful followers to dub him The Boss—an apt honorific because, when it comes to the creative articulation of their feelings and concerns, he calls the shots!

Popular advantage

Instead of pushing this popular advantage to the limit and mining it for all of the honors and money it's worth, Springsteen has opted to occasionally bow out of the public eye, taking time to think, observe and gather material for his next musical foray.

As a result, his appeal and influence have remained fresh and potent, as opposed to some of his contemporaries, who have overstayed their welcome through sheer, cloying persistence and ubiquity.

The last time we heard from Springsteen was in 2002, when he released all-new material in his Sept. 11-themed album, "The Rising," which was certified double platinum.

Now, The Boss has again resurfaced with a new album, "Devil & Dust," a 12-song compilation. Its seeds were sown nearly a decade ago, when the singer-songwriter launched his first-ever acoustic tour. Two of the new album's songs, "The Hitter" and "Long Time Comin'," were written and performed on the "Ghost of Tom Joad" tour.

Metaphor

But, not all of the songs date that far back. The title track was written around the start of the war in Iraq. The songwriter shares, "The war works as a metaphor for all the music underneath it, the individual stories of people wrestling with their demons. It's about people working through their confusions, sometimes well and sometimes tragically."

For 'Devils & Dust," Springsteen opted to record without his signature E Street Band. The core group was Springsteen on guitar and other instruments, producer Brendan O'Brien on bass, and Steve Jordan on drums.

Thus, the new album is quieter and more acoustic than "The Rising." Springsteen has tended to alternate between large-scale rock records followed by some introspective songs since 1982's "Nebraska" was released two years after "The River."

SPRINGSTEEN. His songs have became veritable anthems of struggling, searching youth for several generations.

Sparse arrangements

Pedal steel guitar, harmonica and violin fill in the sparse arrangements. Now 55, Springsteen hasn't lost his sheen and bite, and has even improved through the years. His vocal range has expanded with age, and he provides some higher-pitched vocals on the new album's "All I'm Thinking About" track.

There are many more songs left in The Boss, melodies and lyrics that serve as sequential markers on his career-long journey to individual and collective enlightenment—and he invites the perceptive listener along for the ride!

TV writer turns filmmaker

By Rica Arevalo

THE Cinemalaya filmfest next month will showcase Aloy Adlawan's directorial talent in "Room Boy." For 10 years now, Aloy has been writing for television—most recently, he was the head writer of the just-concluded "Kamao" TV series.

"I had to work my butt off writing for mainstream television so I could get additional financing for my film," he shares.

A chemical engineering graduate, Aloy wore three hats in the production, as writer, director and producer.

Being an independent filmmaker is nothing new to Aloy, because he made a short feature, "Si Lolo Tasyo at ang Araw" at the Mowelfund Film Institute in 1997.

Gaining ground

He reflects, "Indie filmmaking starts gaining ground around family and friends. It is like multilevel marketing networking. Once they ride along with me, *tuloy ang shooting ko.*"

"Room Boy" tells the story of Luis Manalansan Jr., a motel room boy who reluctantly falls in love with a prostitute. It stars Polo Ravales, Meryll Soriano, Chanda Romero and Ynez Veneracion.

What were his worst experiences during production? "I came down with the flu on the fourth day of shoot. My staff often reprimanded me for coughing while shooting. *Ang ingay ko daw!* Then, I drove home with my nose bleeding on the seventh day of shoot. On Dec. 23, we wrapped up at 4 a.m. So, I spent Christmas in bed, sick and alone, whispering, 'Rosebud' (from Orson Welles' 'Citizen Kane')…'"

Crying scene

When Ravales was not ready for a subtle crying scene, Aloy had to take the matter into his hands—literally. He shares, "I knew physical pain affected him emotionally. I started talking to him, but when I realized I wasn't getting to him, I started punching him in the stomach, to the horror of everyone watching."

But, the actor was happy with his "output" and even thanked the neophyte director!

Aloy, who is now writing the "Panday" TV series, looks back on his "Room Boy" shoot: "It was a cathartic experience for me. Now, I want to seriously undergo an intensive acting workshop so I can improve on my ability to direct actors. I can't keep punching actors in the stomach to get a good performance out of them!

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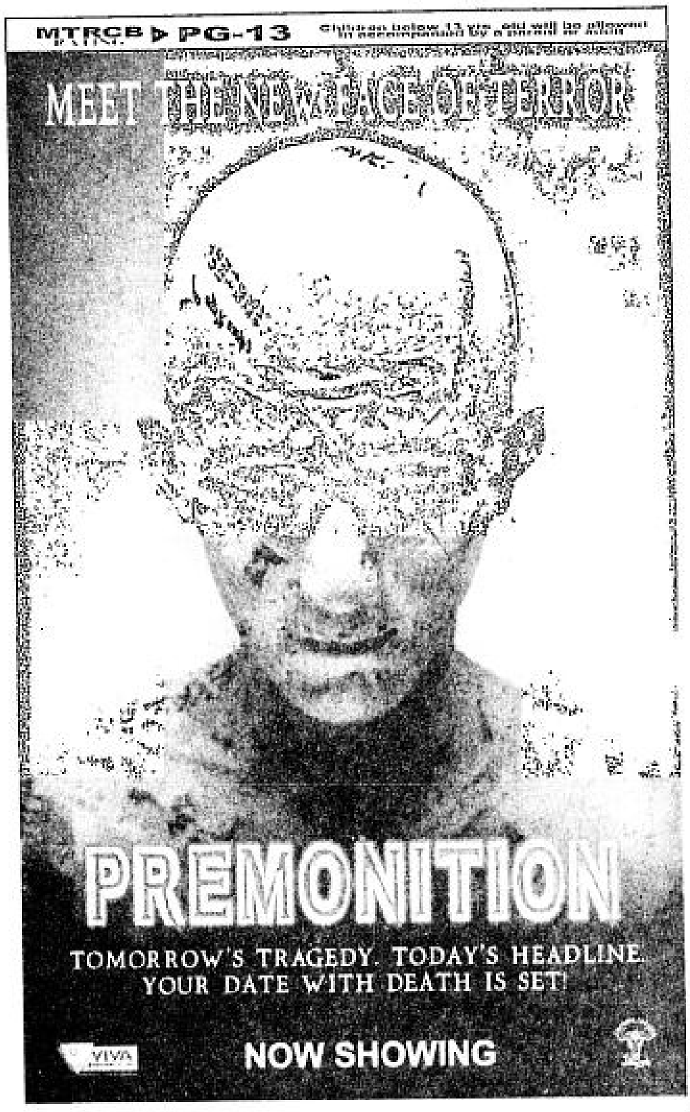
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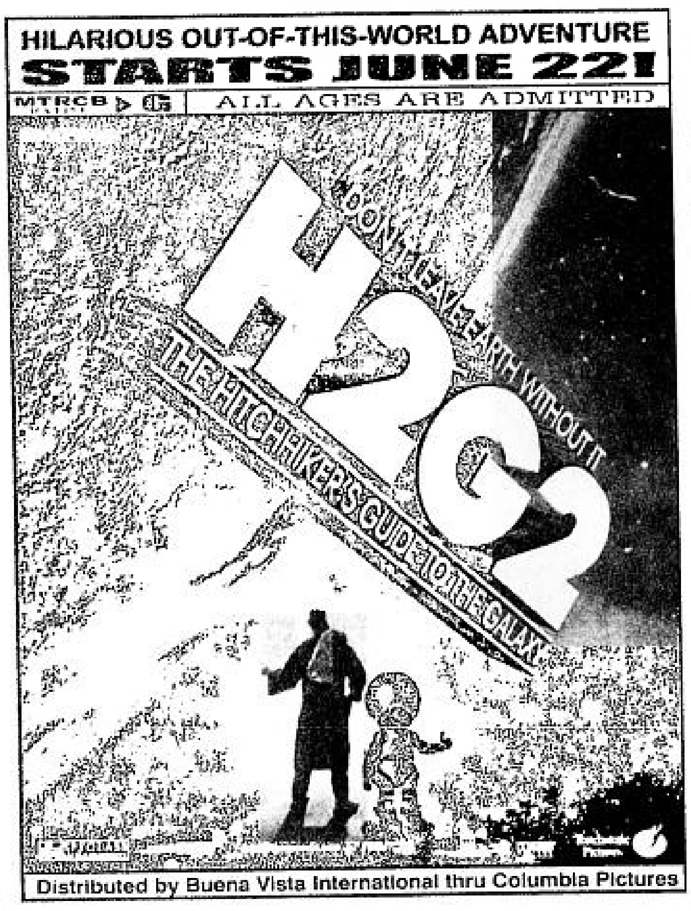
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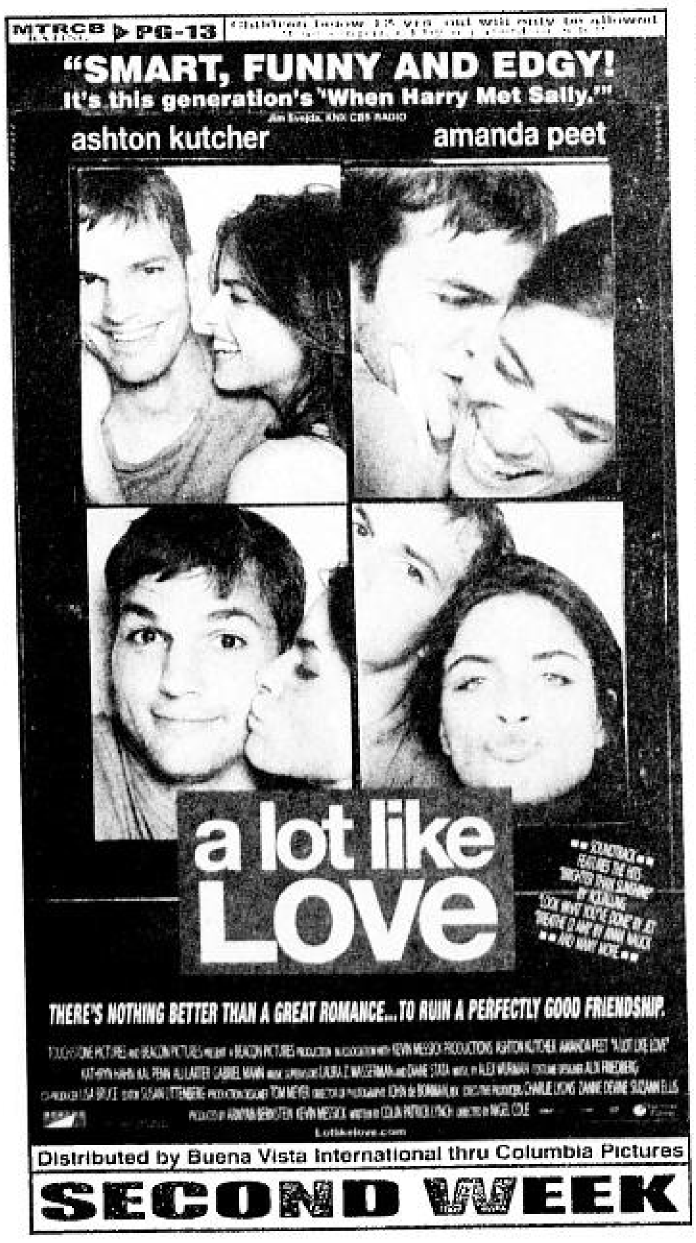
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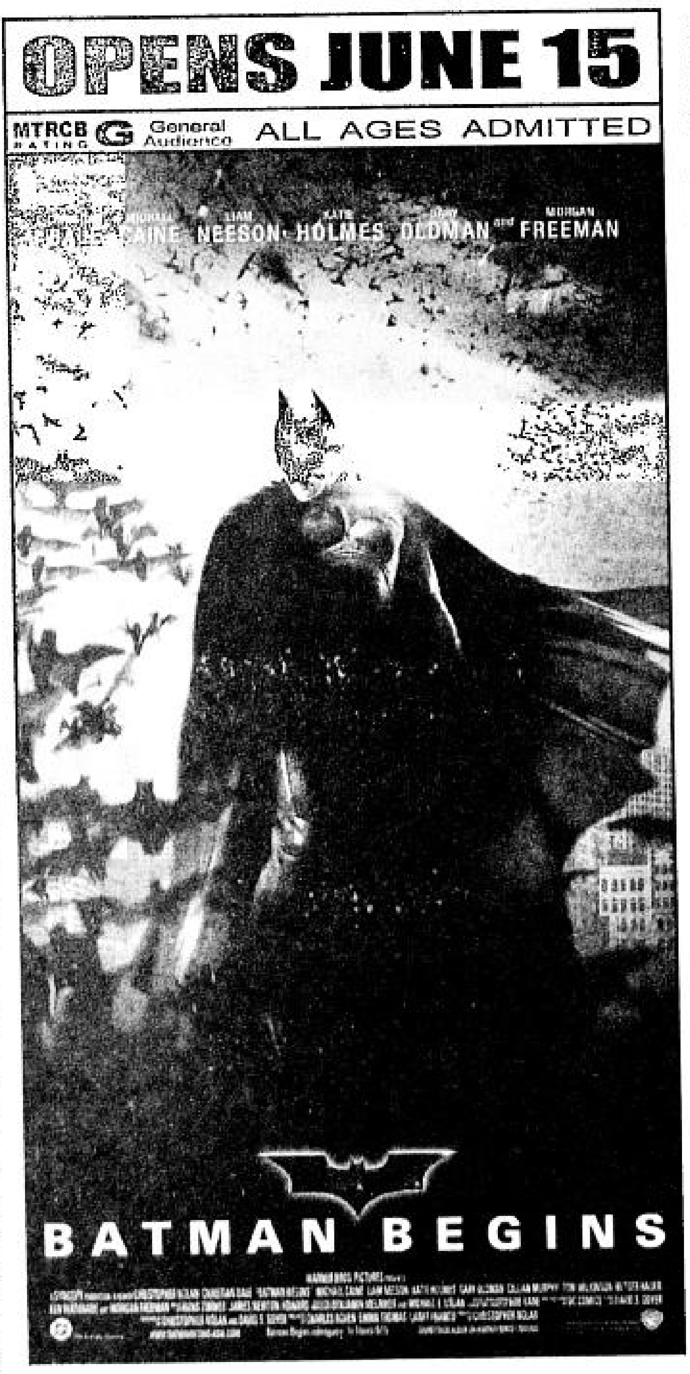
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7:00pm Story of Lotus by Ci Jiun	7:00pm Splendid Season by Sung Jiangbo	7:00pm Nuan by Huo Jianqi
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NOW SHOWING

Brad, Angelina sizzle in outstanding rom-com

JOLIE AND PITT. Their movie is worth more than the hype that surrounds it.

By Rito P. Asilo

"Mr. & Mrs. Smith"

D: Doug Liman
S: Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie

DOUG Liman ("Swingers," "Bourne Identity") scores another winner in his dark, fast-paced romantic-comedy, about a seemingly ideal—and we must add, sizzlingly beautiful—suburban couple, construction engineer John and systems analyst Jane Smith (Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie, respectively), whose world is turned upside down when they discover that everything about their marriage isn't what it seems.

Suddenly, the Smiths' domestic life, with its accompanying boredom and bliss, turns into a ferocious battleground when they find out that they're both highly-trained assassins working for competing agencies. Their secret lives collide when they learn about their latest mission: To annihilate each other! But, after years of marriage, is the union really just for show, and romance a mere mission to accomplish?

Liman creates a dazzling showcase of his unconventional directing style—a method to his madness, as film pundits describe it—that is characterized by a tumultuous, expensive process that somehow coalesces and falls into place when the cinematic dust settles.

The violence in the film may sometimes appear unrealistic, but it finds its sense and meaning as a metaphor for the difficulty of preserving the sanctity of marriage in this age of technology and moral apathy.

The film finds its perfect protagonists in Pitt and Jolie, whose collective movie star appeal, crackling chemistry and onscreen flirtation add luster and grit to the unique material. They deftly deliver the script's caustic wit and hyperkinetic energy (take note of the drawn-out *mano-a-mano* scene between the two stars)—this is "The War of the Roses" on acid, and you're in for a great ride! Forget the rumored Pitt-Jolie romantic trysts that supposedly broke Jennifer Aniston's heart: The movie is worth more than the hype that surrounds it!

"Mga Pusang Gala" (Stray Cats)

D: Ellen Ongkeko-Marfil
S: Ricky Davao, Irma Adlawan

Don't miss Ellen Ongkeko-Marfil's big-screen adaptation of Jun Lana's Palanca-winning play, "Mga Estranghero at Ang Gabi," currently being screened at the Third Pink Film Festival (June 3-12 at the Gateway, and from June 8-22 at the UP Film Institute. Call 410-4567).

In the highly original, visually sumptuous feature, next-door neighbors Boyet (Ricky Davao), a gay romantic novelist, and Marta (Irma Adlawan), an ad agency executive, are bosom buddies who find comfort in their friendship, as they tirelessly wait for their respective lovers, the egregious opportunist Dong (Lauren Novero) and the commitment-phobic Steve (Reggie Curley).

But, the constant waiting takes a toll on their lives when Dong, who constantly locks horns with Boyet's adopted son (Alchris Galura), decides to move in with him. Meanwhile, things aren't as peachy on Marta's end when she finds out about Steve's lies. Worse, she realizes that she's pregnant with the child of her constantly absent lover!

Easily one of the most powerful local films this year, Ellen's movie captures the contrasting facets of the *Pinoy* psyche as it dramatizes how two confused but otherwise intelligent souls—"stray cats," if you will—cope with loneliness, and the uncertainty of living and loving dangerously.

The film, however, is too much of a good thing—which isn't bad in itself. Ellen's meticulous and confident eye is an asset *Pinoy* filmmakers can learn from.

"Mga Pusang Gala" wants to address so many issues, but it should have ended long before its drawn-out conclusion. These, however, are just minor quibbles about a film that the local film industry can be proud about.

The movie boasts of a script that percolates with real dramatic sweep, dry wit, comedic punch and candor; carefully threshed out characters who, in moments of coherence and lucidity, teach us lessons on love and sacrifice; a lush, colorful visual style (courtesy of Bianca David's production design) that contrasts sharply with the stark hopelessness of the protagonists' romantic lives; Jerrold Tarog's music that significantly sets a scene's mood, and feisty but affecting performances from the whole cast.

In Boyet and Marta's parallel and intersecting lives, the filmmaker proves that love— with all of its triumphs and intricacies—knows no gender!

"Shut Up and Kiss Me"

D: Gary Brockette
S: Brad Rowe, Krista Allen

Ryan (Christopher Barnes) and Pete (Brad Rowe) are in search for the girl of their dreams. Then, Pete bumps into a Sicilian mobster's daughter, Tiara (Krista Allen), during a grocery store hold-up. Ryan, on the other hand, knocks heads—literally—with beautiful tour

BRAD/ A3-4

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The evils of gambling

LOTUS POND
R. Valencia and S. Bismark

I HAVE a true story to share about gambling: I have two friends, who eventually ended up marrying each other. Unfortunately, the guy was a gambler, who enjoyed indulging in games of chance. After some time, however, their finances dried up and this compounded their mounting marital problems. The wife didn't think of leaving her husband, but it was he who told her: "Listen, you'll never have a good life with me. Why don't we just separate?"

Heavy heart

With a heavy heart, the wife moved to the countryside and lived a simple life. She started a business that eventually thrived, and allowed her to live well. But, her success did not end there. She ventured into another business that likewise flourished. And she was able to share her good fortune with the people around her.

What happened to the husband? It's not hard to predict what happens to people like him who gamble their lives away. They lose their money—and the people who love them.

When we talk about gambling, let's consider these points:

- People believe that wealth will bring them happiness. However, there are rich people who are alcoholics and drug addicts. Money brings temporary pleasure that doesn't last. Wealth isn't synonymous with bliss.

Misery

- People look at gambling as the shortcut to instant wealth. But, it only ushers in misery.
- People believe that with a stroke of luck, they can get instant rewards. They are not aware of the laws of karma: "As you sow, so shall you reap." We don't earn anything we didn't previously work for. You can't harvest fruits unless you plant trees that bear them.

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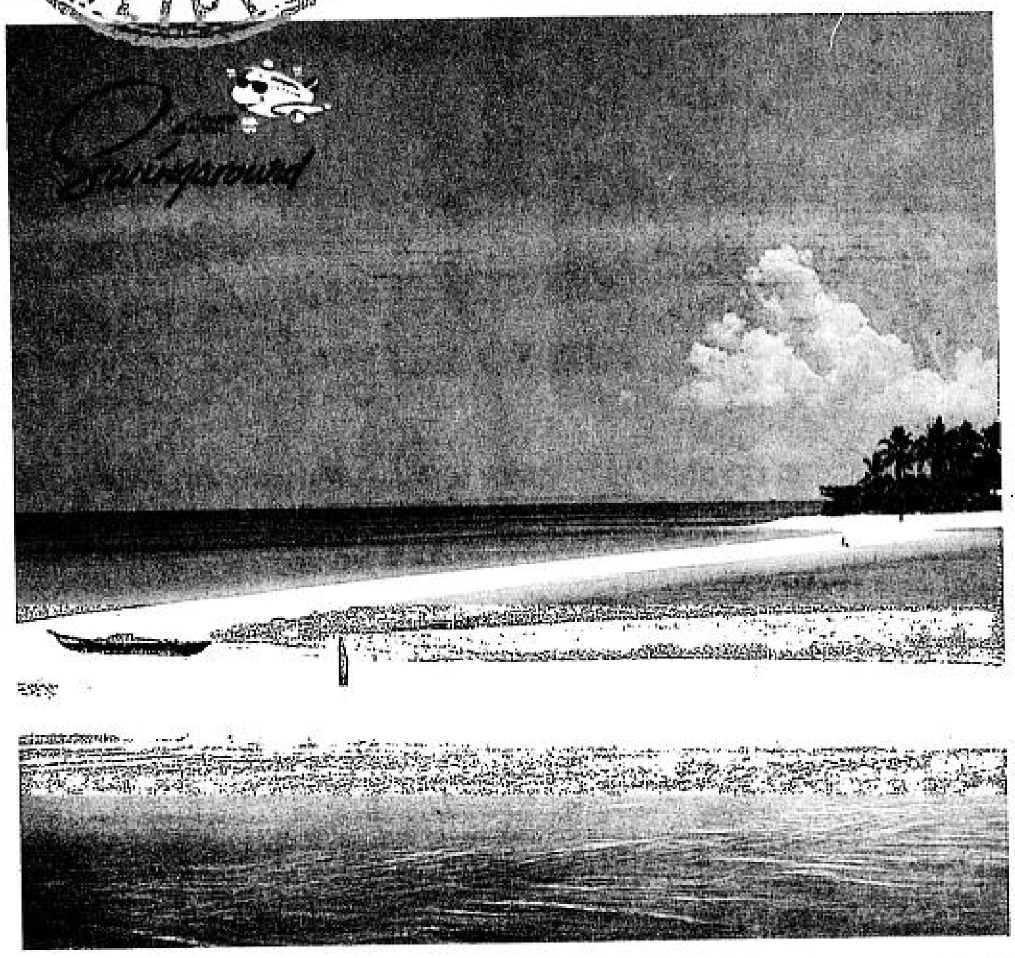

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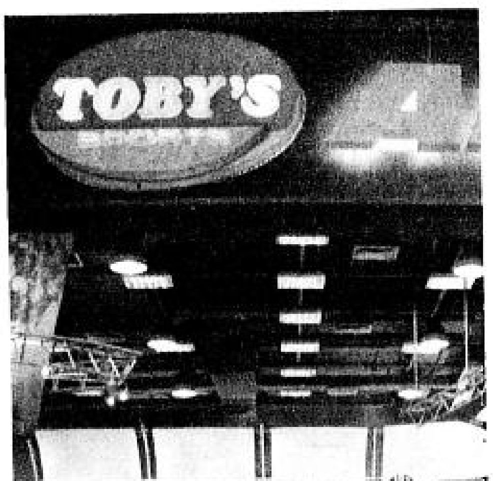

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VISA
All it takes.

MCGREGOR. Stars in futuristic action thriller, "The Island."

LOHAN. Revs up career with "Herbie: Fully Loaded."

EVANS. Plays the Human Torch in "The Fantastic Four."

Wacky fun in latest Hollywood scorchers

By Nestor U. Torre

ARGUABLY the sexiest screen couple to co-star in a film this year, Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie, *a.k.a.* "Mr and Mrs Smith," sizzle in 20th Century Fox's new romantic spy thriller with a difference.

The difference is the movie's plot twist: The Smiths are trapped in a stultifyingly boring marriage, but neither of them knows that the other is in fact a top assassin working for competing agencies—and they are eventually even assigned to assassinate each other!

The movie is unique in another sense: It has been "blamed" for the break-up of Brad's marriage to Jennifer Aniston. Despite Pitt and Jolie's protestations to the contrary, some people believe that the two stars went beyond professional limits while shooting their romantic scenes for the film.

Telltale signs

So, the production has aroused heightened interest from viewers who are making it a point to see it, to look for "telltale signs" of the two sexy leads' romantic indiscretions.-Not that the movie's producers are complaining. All that avid interest, no matter how misplaced, is money in the bank!

"Fantastic Four" also has good built-in interest going for it: Fans of Marvel's longest-running comic book series, on which the film is based, are eager to see how their well-loved fantasy superheroes fare on the big screen.

In the film version, inventor and astronaut Dr. Reed Richards' lifelong dream (to rocket to the center of a cosmic storm in space) is close to being realized. While on the risky mission, however, he and his crew are exposed to cosmic radiation that alters their DNA, and turns them into amazing superheroes—Mr. Fantastic, Invisible Woman, The Human Torch and The Thing. Wacky fun!

Unique powers

Together, they use their unique powers to thwart the evil plans of their nemesis, Dr. Doom, and to protect the citizens of New York City. Michael Chiklis, Jessica Alba and Chris Evans star.

For her part, young comer Lindsay Lohan revs up her stellar career with the fantasy romp, "Herbie: Fully Loaded." In the film, the legendary "Love Bug" is headed for the scrap heap—until Lohan's character rescues the '60s icon.

To repay the favor, the charmed car helps its lovely rescuer shift the course of her life. With a little help from other friends, Herbie becomes stronger and faster than ever, and the car and Lohan's character become partners in a hilarious quest to make the world believe in them.

On-screen sizzle

Finally, Michael Bay ("Armageddon") has come up with a new futuristic action thriller, "The Island," starring Ewan McGregor and Scarlett Johansson—who, come to think of it, could give Brad and Angelina a run for their money when it comes to on-screen sizzle!

McGregor plays a resident of a utopian but controlled facility in the mid-21st century, and he hopes to go to the last uncontaminated spot on the planet. Unknown to him, however, everything about his existence is a lie, and he is actually more valuable dead than alive!

Together with Johansson's character, he makes a daring escape to the outside world he's never known. Other important roles are played by Steve Buscemi, Djimon Hounsou and Sean Bean.

Brad, Angelina sizzle . . .

From page A3-3

guide, Jessica (Kristin Richardson). Will Pete survive his unfortunate entanglement with a *mafioso*, and still find time for romance?

Sporadically amusing but generally unfunny, not even the boyish appeal of Rowe and the winning charm of Allen could salvage this lackluster rom-com from being a dud. With inane punchlines like "I want to impregnate her," would you wonder why?

Making a difference

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

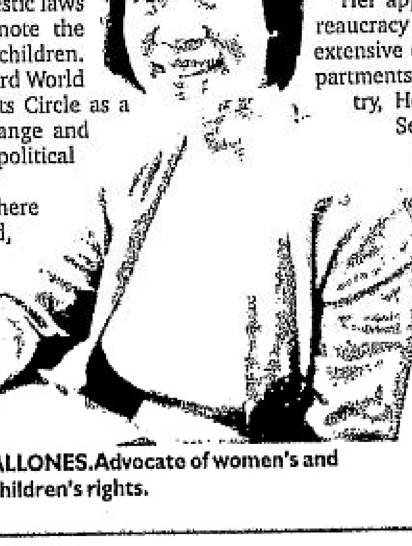
MA. ANTHONETTE Velasco-Allones is a caring wife, doting mother, top-notch lawyer, and a gutsy defender of women's and children's rights. She has been serving in government for 17 years, and is now an assistant secretary at the Department of Labor and Employment.

Tonette is an easy person to get along with—*if* you know her well. Despite her hectic schedule, she still finds time for the Doctora Foundation, and immerses herself in "The Violet Ribbon Campaign," an advocacy program that seeks to improve the capability of health workers to deal with women and children who are survivors of violence.

Lectures

She also conducts lectures on the Convention of the Rights of the Child, and on domestic laws that protect and promote the rights of women and children. She co-founded the Third World Studies Center Students Circle as a forum for policy exchange and debate on emerging political and security issues.

In the community where she and her husband, Atty. Joel Allones, and their two kids (Joshua and Pia) live, she has gained the respect and admiration of neighbors with the modest and exemplary life she leads as a government official.



ALLONES. Advocate of women's and children's rights.

Challenge

"The challenge of being able to bring reform, innovation and improvement in the way the government serves the public inspires me to to go to work everyday," says Tonette. She believes that corruption can be addressed by institutionalizing efficient and reliable systems.

Her appreciation of the bureaucracy is manifested in her extensive experience at the departments of Trade and Industry, Health, the Philippine Senate and National Defense.

With her simplicity, warmth, intelligence, honesty and true grit, she is admired by colleagues in the workplace, and leaves an indelible mark in civil service.

(Email Author mandy-navasero@photo-pro.com.ph)

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Gov't sees sale of PNB by September

Floor price set at ₱43/share

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT has set a floor price for the majority ownership of Philippine National Bank at P43 a share, indicating the Arroyo administration's resolve to sell the bank this year.

The board of directors of Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. (PDIC) and the Privatization Council approved the floor price following a recommendation by ING Bank NV, the government's financial adviser for the planned sale of PNB.

Prequalified interested parties will be given a chance to conduct a due-diligence audit on PNB preparatory to the submission of their bids. Public bidding for the PNB shares has been tentatively set on Aug. 12.

"I'm looking forward to the successful sale of the bank, which is part of the government's privatization strategy to improve and hasten our fiscal consolidation," Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said in a statement.

What the government intends to sell is the combined 67-percent stake in PNB that it jointly owns with the Lucio Tan group. The 67 percent is part of the 90 percent that the two parties hold in PNB. The remaining 10-percent of PNB is publicly listed.

The technical committee on the joint sale, composed of PDIC and representatives from the Department of Finance, has served the right of first offer to the Lucio Tan group, now that the floor price has been set. PDIC said the government's shareholders' agreement with the Lucio Tan group provided an option for the latter to bid for the government's shares.

Should the Lucio Tan group exercise its right of first offer, it will be given the opportunity to improve its bid in the event that oth-

GOV'T/ B3

WHAT'S INSIDE

Flying V, Seaoil raise oil prices by 50¢/liter /B12

US call center putting up regional hub in RP /B4

BREAKTIME
Let's drink to dust /B2

PAL eyes more flights to Japan /B2

Stock quotations /B3

Exports jumped 8.8% in April

MERCHANDISE exports grew by 8.8 percent year-on-year to $3.23 billion in April, rebounding from a fall in the two previous months and keeping the government hopeful that the 10-percent growth target for the full year can be reached.

The National Statistics Office (NSO) yesterday reported that the export growth in April was largely attributed to the 6.3-percent expansion in shipments of electronics. The country's biggest export earner accounting for 64.6 percent of the total exports for the month, electronics exports amounted to $2.09 billion.

But the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), head agency of the NSO, said that while the recovery of exports in April was a welcome development, it remained to be seen whether the growth could be sustained in the coming months.

The export growth in April followed the 2.8-percent drop in March and the 0.6-percent decline in February.

"We are happy with the April figure, but we still don't know whether the growth would continue, or if it was merely a temporary diversion from the downward trend," said Dennis Arroyo, director of the Neda's policy and planning staff. For the moment, the Neda was keeping the 10-percent full-year growth target for exports, he added.

The government economist said

EXPORTS/ B3

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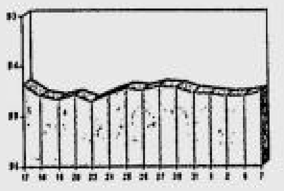

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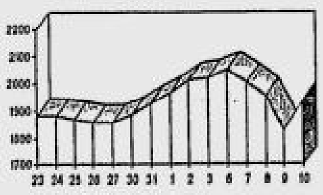
STOCK MARKET

Shares close 2.05% higher on technical rebound

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARE prices closed 2.05 percent higher yesterday on a technical bounce after three days of sharp falls but concerns over rumors of a coup attempt against President Gloria Arroyo remain, dealers said.

Positive export data for April, announced shortly before the open, provided investors with a reason to be upbeat about the economy despite the political tensions, they said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose 38.94 points to 1,937.18 after trading between 1,898.24 and 1,944.84. Turnover was 794 million shares worth P1.2 billion.

The broader all-shares index rose 16.6 points to 1,180.88. Gainers beat losers 55 to 24, with 37 stocks unchanged.

SHARES/ B2

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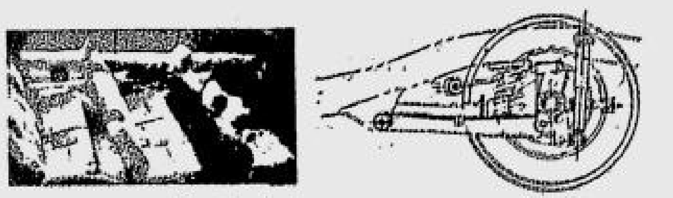

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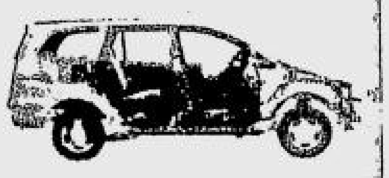

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Ayala's electronics firm buys Speedy-Tech for ₱6B

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

ELECTRONICS firm Integrated Microelectronics Inc. (IMI), a 78.7-percent owned unit of Ayala Corp., yesterday said it had signed a deal to buy Singapore-based Speedy-Tech Electronics.

IMI plans to acquire all of Speedy-Tech's 376.2 million outstanding shares for S$201 million or roughly P6 billion, Ayala Corp. managing director Rufino Luis T. Manotok said in a phone interview.

IMI has P1.5 billion in cash and is poised to tap into its existing credit facilities for the planned acquisition, Manotok said.

Under the plan, all the issued Speedy-Tech shares will be transferred to IMI.

IMI will offer Speedy Tech shareholders a cash consideration of S$0.535 for each of their Speedy-Tech share or 1.32 new IMI shares for every one Speedy-Tech share, or a combination of the two.

After securing the necessary shareholder and regulatory approvals, Speedy-Tech will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of IMI and will be delisted from the Singapore Stock Exchange.

The acquisition will allow IMI to expand into the China market and into other industry segments, such as medical, automotive and industrial equipment.

IMI's customers are largely Japanese, while Speedy-Tech services clients from the United States, Europe and China.

"We are pleased with this development as this is consistent with our objective to position IMI as one of the leading EMS providers in Asia by establishing a global manufacturing footprint. The merger presents synergistic propositions that will be value enhancing to all shareholders," Ayala president and IMI chair Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala said in a disclosure to the stock exchange.

Speedy-Tech manufactures printed circuit board assembly and box-build services.

It is also an original design manufacturer of power electronics solutions used in telecommunications and consumer electronic devices.

It is listed at the Singapore Stock Exchange with a market capitalization of S$188.1 million as of June 8.

Shares close 2.05% ...

From page B1

Dealers said most investors remained reluctant to return to the market, worried about the political situation after the opposition called on President Gloria Arroyo to resign amid renewed allegations—which she denies—of fraud during last year's elections.

Coup rumors have also been circulating and Arroyo has vowed to fight back against those trying to topple her administration.

Financial markets will be closed on Monday after the government declared it a holiday. Trading resumes on Tuesday.

"The selldown in the past three days was a bit overdone so technically, this rebound was expected," said Mark Alan Canizares at Citiseconline.com.

"But investors remain generally nervous because something may happen during the three-day weekend," he added, noting that the selling pressure was still felt in the latter part of yesterday's session. *AFP*

PAL eyes more flights to Japan

By Clarissa S. Batino

TOKYO, Japan—Philippine Airlines is planning to increase its flights to Japan and South Korea in anticipation of a growth in tourist arrivals from these two countries, a senior airline official said.

Genaro Velasquez, PAL's country manager for Japan and South Korea, urged the Philippine government to negotiate for additional allocations from the two countries to help improve traffic and boost tourism.

PAL currently flies 31 times a week to five points in Japan, and 17 times a week to Incheon and Busan in Korea, according to Velasquez.

The flag carrier might increase flights to Nagoya, Japan's fourth largest city, if current allocations given to other airlines won't be used, he said.

"We are studying the market. If growth would continue, we would have to ask aviation authorities to negotiate for additional traffic rights to Japan and Korea," said Velasquez.

The PAL executive hoped that the tourism department's campaign to promote Philippines to Japanese travelers would continue to bear fruit.

As it is, flights from Japan, particularly from Tokyo, are almost always full, according to Filipinos here.

Last year, the Japanese government gave the Philippines 14 additional rights to Japan. The flight allocation included Nagoya, which was previously unavailable to local carriers.

Japan is an important destination to local airlines because it is the second largest source of foreign arrivals, next to the United States.

Let's drink to dust

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

I THINK I know what's bothering you taxpayers of this "jueteng"-liberated republic—a deliverance that, the national police said, lasted for an all-time record of one whole day.

And that is, you must be wondering whether somebody really wins in the PCSO's multimillion-peso jackpot game, called lotto.

Now, I am just looking at a copy of a recent privilege speech of this congressman from sugar land, Bacolod City Rep. Monico Puentebella.

He is saying that one winner of the PCSO multimillion-peso lotto jackpot is the US-based multinational company, called Kraft Foods.

There—it should ease your mind. If even the richest of rich of US multinational companies can win the lotto grand prize, so can you. Hopefully.

In jueteng, in comparison, only relatives of government officials in the highest places are said to win the ... well, "monthly" jackpot.

***

ANYWAY, I am not sure if Puentebella is only trying to be funny. Perhaps he wants to take the place of the newest stand-up comedian in town.

That is none other than Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye who, thanks to the jueteng scandal, must appear on national television every night, telling us all sorts of jokes.

Puentebella claims that Kraft Foods already won the lotto jackpot, because the US multinational found a way to save tariff and duty payments worth some P600 million—so far.

For many years, you see, Kraft Foods used to make its "Tang" brand of powdered beverage mix here in the Philippines.

But then one fine day, the company just decided to close its factory here, thus, in the process, left a lot of people suddenly jobless.

Kraft Foods perhaps thought that it could actually make more money, if it would just import the same "Tang" from its factory in Thailand.

Anyway, based on the speech of Puentebella, the company already found a way to cut the tariff and duty rates on its powdered beverage mix.

And that's the P600-million JACKPOT!

***

UNDER an executive order issued by Gloriaetta, known as EO 295, if you import something with a sugar content of more than 65 percent, you must pay for a tariff rate of 48 percent.

No, says Kraft Foods, but no! To the US multinational company, its imported "Tang" should only pay a tariff of only 3 percent—for a savings of 45 percent. Nice.

Again, that EO 295 is an executive order. As Puentebella points out, it has the force of law, meaning, you and I must follow it, or else...

But apparently, Kraft Foods thinks that, as a multinational company, it does not have to follow the laws of the land.

In arguing its case against the Sugar Regulatory Administration, or the SRA, Kraft Foods insists that its importation does not fall under EO 295.

According to the Gloriaetta executive order, the SRA determines the sugar content of the importation.

But Kraft Foods does not recognize the SRA's authority to challenge the "beautiful" tariff and duty rates, which it actually got from the Tariff Commission and the customs bureau.

Even if boss, the rates are already as funny as Toting?

In other words, everybody else must follow the executive order of Gloriaetta, except Kraft Foods. Is that it?

***

FROM what I gathered, all the other importers of powdered beverage mix must pay a 48-percent tariff, if they are bringing in "finished" goods.

That is the decision of the SRA, particularly for the importation of companies like San Miguel and Universal Robina.

But then Kraft-Foods claims that it is not importing finished goods, but raw materials, meaning, it has to process the beverage mix from Thailand.

Now, the imported "Tang" that you can find in the stores today, actually, is contained in a so-called "pouch," as against "can" or "bottle."

Word in the industry is that the closed local factory of Kraft Foods, to begin with, never had the machines to pack the beverage mix in pouches.

Is somebody pulling the leg of this cute administration or what? *Buti na lang*, it's a US multinational, and the company can probably get away with it!

***

UNFORTUNATELY for us, starting last year, the customs bureau was already releasing the "Tang" shipment of Kraft Foods from Thailand.

All Kraft Foods had to do was, well, pay up. I mean, not to somebody in customs bureau or the Tariff Commission, but in the form of a "bond."

Kraft Foods deposits the payment of tariff and duties, in the name of the customs, equivalent to a rate of 48 percent.

In effect, if this cute administration decides to agree with Kraft Foods that, indeed, the rate should only be 3 percent, Kraft Foods will get the money.

According to Puentebella, that money now amounts to P600 million. This is the money that, he says, this cute administration will lose, if Kraft Foods had its way.

And it looks that way, so far. I mean, based on the story related by Puentebella in his speech, Kraft Foods is about to get away with its ... well, "lotto winnings."

***

PUENTEBELLA reveals that Kraft Foods imports Tang and Kool Aid powdered juice from Thailand, which contain more than 90-percent sugar.

Despite EO 295 saying that such importation is subject to a 48-percent tariff, somebody in the Tariff Commission gave Kraft Foods a ruling to pay for only 3 percent.

His name is Edgardo Maralit, according to Puentebella.

The cretin, *este*, the Tariff Commission guy made the "classification opinion" that gave Kraft Foods the 3-percent advantage over all the local makers of beverage mix.

And over at the customs bureau, according to Puentebella, somebody named Felipe Bartolome, a lawyer assigned at the bureau's "valuation and classification review committee," went along with the opinion of Maralit.

Maralit who?

Puentebella says that the customs committee made the decision without the knowledge of Customs Commissioner Bert Lina. Hmm. Really?

I mean, if such a big issue, affecting not only several Filipino businesses but also the entire sugar industry, gets past the head of the bureau, something is wrong with the way he is running the freaking show.

***

WHILE the Tariff Commission and the customs bureau made Kraft Foods a winner of P600-million lotto jackpot, the losers would surely be those five million—again, that's FIVE MILLION—workers in the sugar industry.

The figure comes from Puentebella. Of course, as congressman from sugar land, he can be expected to bloat it.

But the thing is, whatever the actual figure is, we all know that the sugar industry is one of the biggest employers in this country.

Sugar is one of the leading produce, if not THE leading produce, in some 17 provinces.

To top it all, about 65 percent of local sugar industry serves industrial users, such as the makers of powdered beverage mix.

If those local makers can import "finished" goods at 3-percent tariff rates, as against 48 percent, they may as well just relocate to Thailand.

After all, such a decision will only lead to the complete collapse of the sugar industry. Everything turns to dust. And Kraft Foods, meanwhile, can drink to that!

Now, Puentebella points out that, if Kraft Foods ships its Tang from Thailand to the US mainland, it will have to follow the Code 1701 classification.

That means that "Tang" contains more than 65-percent sugar, it must pay the corresponding tariff rates. "Without question," according to Puentebella.

But since Kraft Foods is only doing business here in the Philippines, he says, the US multinational can use magic. *Aray.*

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- Rotary Feeder
- Vibrator Shaft
- Walking Tractor
- Wheel Loader

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 10, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31.5	32	31.5	32	148,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	47	49	47	48.5	1,873,800
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	400
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.61	0.62	0.6	0.61	1,020,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	48	49.5	47.5	48	182,800
International Exch. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	20,300
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31	32	30	31	709,900
Philippine National Bank	33	34	33	34	226,200
Phil. Savings Bank	32	32	32	32	1,500
Security Bank Corp.	27	27	27	27	25,200
Union Bank of the Phil.	27.5	28	27.5	28	117,300
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	262.5	265	231	265	250
Manulife Financial Corp.	2570	2580	2570	2575	570
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1,394,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1720	1740	1710	1740	1,340
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	11.25	11.5	11.25	11.5	21,200
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.06	1.12	1.06	1.1	1,810,000
Easycall Phils. Inc.-Com	2.2	2.2	2	2	12,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	800	835	795	830	29,610
Ipeople Inc.	3.45	3.45	3.3	3.3	37,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	1,800,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	43,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.15	3.25	3.15	3.2	5,204,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1560	1565	1535	1535	194,430
Ivantage Corp.	0.66	0.66	0.65	0.65	1,180,000
Philweb Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.017	0.018	52,700,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.25	16	15.25	15.5	16,800
Manila Electric Co. B	23.5	24.25	23.5	24	469,200
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.4	6.6	6.4	6.5	9,583,000
Petron Corp.	3.25	3.3	3.05	3.1	4,816,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.08	320,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.7	7.8	7.7	7.8	1,165,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	120,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.08	1.1	1.08	1.1	22,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.58	0.61	0.58	0.59	760,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.45	3.55	3.35	3.4	2,528,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	353,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	80,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	33	33	33	33	100
Jollibee Foods Corp.	28.5	30.5	28.5	30.5	2,082,400
RFM Corp.	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	10,000
San Miguel Corp. A	58	58	57.5	58	30,000
San Miguel Corp. B	89	89	89	89	19,000
Universal Robina Corp.	16	16	16	16	264,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	1,960,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	16,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	31,000,000
Ayala Corp.	340	350	340	347.5	101,100
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.85	4.95	4.8	4.95	3,228,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.033	0.033	0.033	0.033	7,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.96	1.96	1.94	1.96	238,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	10,000,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.16	0.15	0.16	3,860,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.12	1.16	1.1	1.1	29,393,000
Basic Consolidated Inc	0.155	0.16	0.155	0.16	540,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	150,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.29	0.32	0.29	0.32	10,600,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.6	2.65	2.55	2.6	1,345,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	8.5	8.7	8.5	8.5	817,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	48.5	48.5	47.5	47.5	364,200
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	100,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.0875	0.0875	0.085	0.0875	900,000
House Of Investments Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	230,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.45	3.45	734,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.82	1.82	1.82	1.82	50,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.38	1.42	1.38	1.4	10,715,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.36	0.38	0.36	0.36	33,600,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	470,000
SM Investments Corp.	255	255	252.5	255	629,760
South China Resources Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	50,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.2	0.19	0.19	13,640,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.21	0.215	0.21	0.215	1,680,000
Zeus Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	50,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.24	1.3	1.24	1.3	35,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	300,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHERS					
Belle Corp.	1.16	1.18	1.12	1.12	5,112,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	30,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.14	1.18	1.14	1.18	2,030,000
Manila Jockey Club	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	5,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	50,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	11.25	11.5	11.25	11.5	1,702,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series C	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series J	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series K	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	2,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.7	8	7.7	7.9	12,024,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.92	0.94	0.91	0.93	480,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.27	1,980,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	7,500,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.44	1.48	1.44	1.48	6,791,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.25	0.25	0.23	0.23	1,120,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	20,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.6	4.6	4.55	4.55	71,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.7	8	7.7	7.9	9,709,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	20,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	5,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.5	5.7	5.5	5.5	1,662,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	3	3	3	3	5,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.31	0.33	0.31	0.33	21,120,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.33	0.35	0.33	0.34	26,370,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	47,100,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	39,500,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.006	296,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.94	0.94	0.92	0.92	920,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.04	1.08	1.04	1.04	3,677,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	31.5	32	31.5	31.5	212,900
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	190,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	19,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	40,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	50,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	6,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.6	42,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.145	0.15	0.145	0.15	6,710,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	500,000

DISCLOSURES

ELECTED directors of **APC Group Inc.** were Willy Ocier, Jerry Tiu, Bernardo Lim, Edmundo Tan, Manuel Gana, Jose Gabionza, Ricardo Galvez, Bernard Lopez, Maritoni Liwanag, Martin Israel Pison, Sabino Acut Jr., Paul Mar Arias and Girlie Isabel Umali.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Filipino Fund Inc.** were Bernardo Villegas, Frank Gaisano, Margaret Ang, Edward Go and Aljim Jamandre.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Benpres Holdings Corp.** were Oscar Lopez, Felipe Alfonso, Eugenio Lopez III, Manuel Lopez, Steve Psinakis, Angel Ong, Washington Sycip and Vicente Paterno.

* * *

SUPERCITY Realty Development Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 29, 2:30 p.m. at the Richmonde Hotel, Pasig City. Only stockholders of record as of May 31 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

EASYCALL Communications Philippines Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 28, 10 a.m. at the Lighthouse Theater, Port Area, Manila. Only stockholders of record as of May 31 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting. ***Compiled by: Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

June 10, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.817929	1.000000	54.8590
Japan	Yen	0.007616	0.009311	0.5108
United Kingdom	Pound	1.489612	1.821200	99.9092
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.105129	0.128531	7.0511
Switzerland	Franc	0.651736	0.796813	43.7124
Canada	Dollar	0.650959	0.795862	43.6602
Singapore	Dollar	0.491514	0.600925	32.9661
Australia	Dollar	0.627680	0.767401	42.0989
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.169630	2.652590	145.5184
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.218115	0.266667	14.6291
Brunei	Dollar	0.490042	0.599125	32.8674
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000085	0.000104	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.020136	0.024618	1.3505
UAE	Dirham	0.222705	0.272279	14.9370
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.222600	67.0706
Argentina	Peso	0.282531	0.345423	18.9496
Brazil	Real	0.328684	0.401849	22.0450
Denmark	Kroner	0.134340	0.164244	9.0103
India	Rupee	0.018816	0.023004	1.2620
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.215273	0.263193	14.4385
Mexico	New Peso	0.075191	0.091929	5.0431
New Zealand	Dollar	0.582280	0.711896	39.0539
Norway	Kroner	0.126570	0.154744	8.4891
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013724	0.016779	0.9205
South Africa	Rand	0.121607	0.148677	8.1563
Korea	Won	0.000815	0.000997	0.0547
Syria	Pound	0.015757	0.019264	1.0568
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026140	0.031959	1.7532

Gov't sees sale of PNB by Sept.

From page B1

er interested buyers offer bids that are higher than what the group originally offered. But exercising its right of first offer also means that the Lucio Tan group will have to automatically buy the PNB shares based on the floor price if there will be no other bidder.

If the Lucio Tan group does not exercise its right of first offer, it can still participate in the bidding but only as a regular bidder.

The DOF said the determination of the floor price took into consideration PNB's earning potential based on its franchise, branch network and infrastructure, market share, and solid client base.

Purisima earlier said the government was bullish about selling PNB after it finally turned in a profit of P168 million in 2004, reversing the net loss of P1.5 billion in 2003.

For 2005, PNB said it expected a P604-million profit after net income for the first quarter reached P151 million.

"We are confident we will be able to maintain the pace we achieved in the first quarter due to various factors, such as the resolution of our NPL (non-performing loans problem)," PNB president Omar Byron T. Mie was earlier quoted as saying.

Purisima said the government was targeting to sell the PNB shares by September, when the shareholders' agreement between the government and the Lucio Tan group expires.

Exports jumped 8.8% in April

From page B1

the weaker-than-target performance of the export sector was an offshoot of the slowdown in the global economy. He cited the United States, one of the Philippines' biggest export markets, whose gross domestic product growth slowed to 3.1 percent in the first quarter.

He also said that demand from the United States, Japan and Europe had decreased early in the year partly due to cyclical reasons, as many foreign companies still had huge inventories. Many companies were also cutting down on other expenditures as they compensate for the still high cost of oil in the world market.

The NSO reported that following electronics were articles of apparel and clothing accessories, which remained as the Philippines' second biggest export earner. These had a combined share of 4 percent, or $128.73 million, of the total export receipts for April. The figure was 5.8 percent lower than the $136.65 million a year earlier.

The country's other top exports for April were coconut oil, $92.55 million (down from $60.12 million during the same period of 2004); ignition wiring set and other wiring sets used in vehicles, aircraft and ships, $50.78 million (up from $39.33 million), and other products manufactured from materials imported on consignment basis, $45.69 million (up from $44.76 million).

The NSO also reported that the biggest export market for April was Japan, which accounted for $600.22 million of the total exports for the month. This was higher than last year's $517.66 million.

The United States was the second biggest export market, accounting for $530.55 million, or higher than the $483.48 million recorded a year ago. *Michelle V. Remo*

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–Laura DiDio, The Yankee Group, April 2004
"Free Software", Unix, and Windows TCO Comparison

The Yankee Group, a global research and consulting firm, concluded that a significant switch to "free software" from Windows or Unix could cost three to four times as much without delivering tangibly better performance or business value. These findings are based on a non-sponsored worldwide survey of 1,000 IT administrators and C-level executives in midsized and large enterprises.

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Microsoft Windows Server System

US call center putting up regional hub in RP

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VAT: There must be a better way to make laws

By Paul R. Cooper

(Last of a series)

ONE of the more interesting developments in the VAT bill is that the House and Senate versions of the bill both contained a "no pass through" provision for VAT on power, yet the final bill contains none. I have already indicated in my third article that this was one of the bright notes in the bicameral conference discussions: First, because the idea of a "no pass through" is entirely at odds with the objective of a VAT system, and second, because probably nobody could work out from the drafting of the bills how the rules should be interpreted in practice.

The second point—inability to interpret the drafting—is worth a closer look because it encapsulates some of what is wrong with the current legislative development process. We will focus on the version in Senate Bill No. 1950, the non-penal portion of which reads:

"The VAT on the sales of electricity by generation companies, and services of transmission companies and distribution companies, as well as those of franchise grantees of electric utilities shall not apply to residential end-users: Provided, that the value-added tax herein levied shall be absorbed and paid by the generation, transmission and distribution companies concerned. The said companies shall not pass on such tax payments to Napocor or ultimately to the consumers, including but not limited to residential end-users, either as costs or in any other form whatsoever, directly or indirectly."

It is not straightforward to derive a meaning for the proviso, as the language is ambiguous and the intent unclear. The key issue is the character of the purchase of electricity by residential end-users. When a residential end-user makes a payment to Meralco, for example, is it for the electricity sold by Meralco to the end-user, or has Meralco merely acted as a collection agent for the various parties involved in the supply chain? The proviso appears predicated on the principle that Meralco is merely a collection agent. However, it seems doubtful that a generation or transmission company would have recourse to the residential end-user in the event that the end-user defaults on a payment to the distribution company.

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VAT's transactional nature as basis

Based on the transactional nature of the VAT (an end-user buys power from a distribution company, who in turn buys power from Napocor, etc.), there are several ways the language of the proviso might be interpreted:

- Under section 108, a 10 percent VAT is "levied, assessed and collected" on "gross receipts derived from the sale or exchange of services." The section then enumerates a number of specific services "performed or rendered by" persons that are subject to VAT. Consequently, electricity sales made by residential end-users will not be subject to output tax. Strictly, to capture the supply of electricity to residential end-users, the proviso should read, "... not apply to the supply of electricity to residential end-users."
- Reading the words "the supply of electricity to" into the proviso, only the supply transaction with the residential end-user would fall outside the VAT base, as the VAT is a transaction-based tax and end-users transaction only with distribution companies and franchise grantees. Were the residential end-user to contract directly with generation, transmission and distribution companies to effect their power supply, however, the whole supply would not be subject to VAT.

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Conclusion

The key point to be drawn from this discussion is that there are two steps in making effective law. First, one should make a judgment about the policy goals to be achieved. In this case, the issue should have been exactly what burden was to be placed on consumers when VAT was made subject to VAT. Second, one should get a tax specialist to draft provisions to give effect to the policy intent. One reason the "no pass through" provision is difficult to interpret is the apparently unsound underlying presumption that Meralco collects money from customers in a capacity as agent for generation and distribution companies, rather than as the principal in a transaction involving the supply of electricity.

If Congress could be encouraged to debate the policy issues, rather than the specific drafting of provisions, there would be less risk that ambiguous law will result at the end of the process.

The key to effective policy design is to develop the policy up front, and then to obtain agreement on the policy parameters from key stakeholders before a bill is tabled in the House of Representatives. The greater the transparency in the policy parameters, the more effective the consultative process will be. The more consultation that can be undertaken before a bill is introduced, the better quality that bill is likely to have. One of the problems faced by participants in the current process is that it is never clear exactly where a bill is headed until it is passed, or the reason certain initiatives are undertaken.

Who are the key stakeholders? The Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Department of Finance are two agencies that should play important roles in driving the integrity of the VAT system. Tax professionals also have an important role to play; an appropriate comment at the right moment can steer a government away from a measure that otherwise might be disastrous, or might help refine a provision so that the government still obtains its objective, but in a manner imposing far less costs on taxpayers.

Then there is Congress. Tax is always going to be a complex area, meaning that many congressmen and senators may need to take on trust representations made by colleagues more familiar with the tax laws. The key may revolve around establishing a small group that becomes intimate with tax policy and administration issues. Section 290 of the Tax Code already provides for just such a group—the congressional oversight committee consisting of five senators and five congressmen—to monitor the implementation of the Tax Code. The committee has not been convened to date, but administration weaknesses highlighted in the recent VAT bill may encourage the chairs of the ways and means committee to review that status.

Potentially, the committee could represent the way forward. If the members can reach agreement on the broad policy parameters to be followed for a prospective tax bill, and then delegate the drafting to persons specializing in the technical application of tax law, it should be possible to manage a tax bill through Congress without it becoming radically distorted in the process. After all, five members from each Chamber represent a significant proportion of the members that ultimately should participate in the bicameral process. It makes for a very strong block to ensure the bill is managed effectively through the process.

Who's with me to redraft the Tax Code into plain English?

(Mr. Cooper is a tax expert and a director of PricewaterhouseCoopers)

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Conclusion

The key point to be drawn from this discussion is that there are two steps in making effective law. First, one should make a judgment about the policy goals to be achieved. In this case, the issue should have been exactly what burden was to be placed on consumers when VAT was made subject to VAT. Second, one should get a tax specialist to draft provisions to give effect to the policy intent. One reason the "no pass through" provision is difficult to interpret is the apparently unsound underlying presumption that Meralco collects money from customers in a capacity as agent for generation and distribution companies, rather than as the principal in a transaction involving the supply of electricity.

If Congress could be encouraged to debate the policy issues, rather than the specific drafting of provisions, there would be less risk that ambiguous law will result at the end of the process.

The key to effective policy design is to develop the policy up front, and then to obtain agreement on the policy parameters from key stakeholders before a bill is tabled in the House of Representatives. The greater the transparency in the policy parameters, the more effective the consultative process will be. The more consultation that can be undertaken before a bill is introduced, the better quality that bill is likely to have. One of the problems faced by participants in the current process is that it is never clear exactly where a bill is headed until it is passed, or the reason certain initiatives are undertaken.

Who are the key stakeholders? The Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Department of Finance are two agencies that should play important roles in driving the integrity of the VAT system. Tax professionals also have an important role to play; an appropriate comment at the right moment can steer a government away from a measure that otherwise might be disastrous, or might help refine a provision so that the government still obtains its objective, but in a manner imposing far less costs on taxpayers.

Then there is Congress. Tax is always going to be a complex area, meaning that many congressmen and senators may need to take on trust representations made by colleagues more familiar with the tax laws. The key may revolve around establishing a small group that becomes intimate with tax policy and administration issues. Section 290 of the Tax Code already provides for just such a group—the congressional oversight committee consisting of five senators and five congressmen—to monitor the implementation of the Tax Code. The committee has not been convened to date, but administration weaknesses highlighted in the recent VAT bill may encourage the chairs of the ways and means committee to review that status.

Potentially, the committee could represent the way forward. If the members can reach agreement on the broad policy parameters to be followed for a prospective tax bill, and then delegate the drafting to persons specializing in the technical application of tax law, it should be possible to manage a tax bill through Congress without it becoming radically distorted in the process. After all, five members from each Chamber represent a significant proportion of the members that ultimately should participate in the bicameral process. It makes for a very strong block to ensure the bill is managed effectively through the process.

Who's with me to redraft the Tax Code into plain English?

(Mr. Cooper is a tax expert and a director of PricewaterhouseCoopers)

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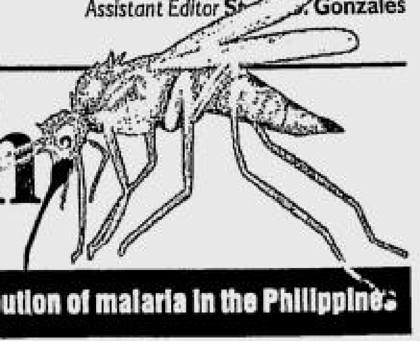
Stalling malaria's deadly path



By Charles E. Buban

MALARIA-CARRYING mosquitoes have plagued the human race for some time. And despite the knowledge humans have gained about this tiny winged insect and the deadly single-celled parasite it could potentially transmit to humans, the World Health Organization estimates that 300 million to 500 million cases of malaria still occur each year.

"Usually, mosquito bites are a harmless nuisance. But when the insect carries parasites that cause malaria, even just one bite spells trouble," says Dr. Mario Baquilod, division chief of the Department of Health Infectious Diseases Office.

But Baquilod says the chances of contracting malaria only increases if one goes to a defined geographical area where the parasites and the mosquito species that transmit them thrive.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

ONE way to prevent malaria infection is to use chemically treated mosquito nets at night.

Preventive drug

"The risk of acquiring malaria is also determined by the intensity of malaria transmission in the area, the season of one's visit to the area, as well as the length of stay, type of accommodation and likely activities between dusk and dawn," says Baquilod.

Baquilod advises people who are planning to go to a malaria-endemic area, especially during the rainy season, to take chemoprophylaxis—usually the inexpensive doxycycline—as a precaution two or three days before travel. The drug has to be taken daily up to four weeks after one leaves the place.

Although no prophylaxis is 100 percent effective, the correct medicine will reduce one's risk of contracting severe illness, he says.

4 species

According to DOH entomologist Norma Joson, malaria is caused by four species of the Plasmodium parasite, namely *P. falciparum*, *P. vivax*, *P. malariae* and *P. ovale*. Only the first two are endemic to the Philippines.

The parasite is primarily transmitted by the two species of Anopheles mosquito native to this country, the *Anopheles flavirostris* complex and the *Anopheles maculatus* complex.

In the Philippines over 70 percent of malaria infections is due to *P. falciparum* infection.

Severe morbidity

"The *P. falciparum* is the only species associated with severe morbidity and mortality as it causes the most severe symptoms, including severe anemia, cerebral symptoms, renal failure, pulmonary edema and death," says Baquilod.

Only the female Anopheles mosquitoes transmit malaria, as only female mosquitoes bite humans to take a blood meal. The Anopheles are mostly found in the clear running water of mountain streams, either exposed to the sun or along a more shady edge, in seepage water, springs and shallow wells.

Cycle of transmission

Baquilod says that when the malaria-carrying mosquito bites a human, it injects the malaria parasites into the person's blood. The parasites travel through the person's bloodstream to the liver, where they grow to their next stage of development.

In six to nine days, the parasites leave the liver and enter the bloodstream again. They invade the red blood cells, and begin to multiply quickly, causing the blood cells to burst. The infection spreads and the person starts experiencing malaria symptoms.

On the other hand, when a non-infected Anopheles mosquito bites a person infected with malaria, it sucks up parasites from the person's blood. The mosquito is then infected with malaria parasites, which go through several stages of growth inside the mosquito.

"When this newly infected mosquito bites another person, the latter will become infected as well, and the cycle will begin again," says Baquilod.

If another type of mosquito bites a malaria-infected person, that mosquito cannot be a carrier of the disease.

Malaria parasites, Baquilod says, can also be transmitted through transfusion of blood from an infected person or through the use of needles or syringes contaminated with the blood of an infected person.

Life-threatening disease

The early symptoms of malaria includes flu, with periods of chills and fever lasting several hours and occurring every few days. When one experiences this, Baquilod says, it is best to immediately seek medical attention.

"One should always suspect malaria, especially if that person is still staying or has recently traveled to a malaria-risk area. Early intervention is needed since malaria can very rapidly become a severe and life-threatening disease," says Baquilod.

Without treatment, the illness may deteriorate rapidly, especially in high-risk groups including pregnant women, young children, and immuno-compromised patients.

Insidious parasite

Baquilod says the best way to beat malaria is to prevent contact with the mosquitoes.

"The malaria parasite has proven to be insidious, managing to mutate and resist drugs and insecticides created to fight it. Even scientists looking for a cure for malaria admit that it may take several more years to create a vaccine that provides total protection," says Baquilod.

As part of the nationwide Malaria Control Program, the DOH, in coordination with its local partners, conducts awareness campaigns in endemic areas, does house-to-house insecticide spraying operations during outbreaks, and distributes mosquito nets impregnated with insecticides to families living in high-risk areas.

"We also advise them to wear long-sleeved shirts or blouses and long trousers to protect their arms and legs, especially from dusk to dawn when malaria-carrying mosquitoes are out," Baquilod says.

Geographical distribution of malaria in the Philippines

Category A

(No significant improvement in the last 10 yearsor situation has worsened in the last five years)

Apayao
Kalinga
Ifugao
Mountain Province
Isabela
Cagayan
Quirino
Zambales

Palawan
Mindoro Occidental
Quezon
Zamboanga del Sur
Misamis Oriental
Davao Oriental
Davao del Sur
Davao del Norte

Compostela Valley
Sarangani
Agusan del Sur
Agusan del Norte
Surigao del Sur
Tawi-Tawi
Sulu
Basilan

Category B

(1,000 to 100,000 cases a year)

Abra
Ilocos Norte
Pangasinan
Nueva Viscaya
Tarlac
Nueva Ecija
Bulacan
Bataan

Aurora
Laguna
Rizal
Romblon
Mindoro Oriental
Camarines Norte
Camarines Sur

Zamboanga del Norte
South Cotabato
North Cotabato
Sultan Kudarat
Lanao del Sur
Lanao del Norte
Maguindanao
Surigao del Norte

Category C

(With significant reduction in cases in the last five years)

Benguet
Ilocos Sur
La Union
Batanes
Pampanga
Batangas

Cavite
Marinduque
Masbate
Albay
Sorsogon
Aklan

Negros Occidental
Negros Oriental
Eastern Samar
Western Samar
Misamis Occidental
Surigao del Norte

Category D

(Provinces already declared malaria-free or have no more indigenous cases for at least three years Some are potentially malarious due to the presence of the mosquito that carries the malaria parasite)

Cebu
Bohol
Catanduanes
Aklan

Capiz
Guimaras
Siquijor
Biliran
Iloilo

Northern Leyte
Southern Leyte
Northern Samar
Camiguin

Fast facts on malaria

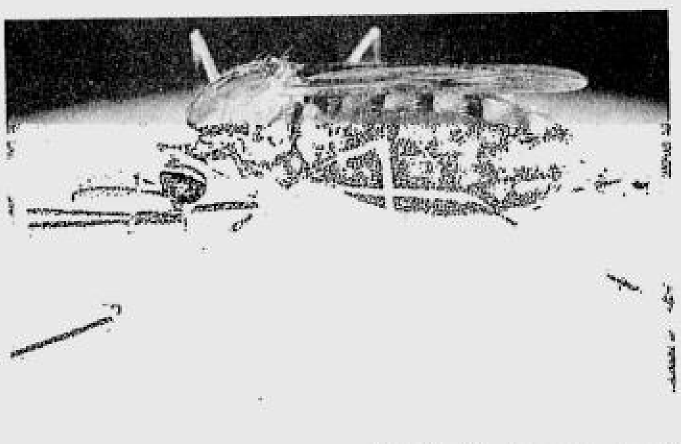
WHAT IS IT? A disease caused by parasites, which are transmitted by a particular type of mosquito called Anopheles. Its name—"mal aria" ("bad air" in Italian)—comes from the myth that it comes from breathing in air from stagnant marshes. In 1880, scientists isolated a one-cell parasite called plasmodium that is the real cause of the disease.

The toll: Between one million and three million die from malaria each year, 90 percent of them in sub-Saharan Africa. At least 300 million people suffer from acute malaria each year, often suffering lasting effects. Children aged under 5, pregnant women and their unborn children, and the elderly are the most vulnerable.

Global warming

Where does it occur? In poor tropical countries that are home to 40 percent of the world's population. It was eliminated from temperate climates by the middle of the 20th century, although there are fears of a gradual comeback in the next few decades because of global warming.

Symptoms: Fever, headache, vomiting and other flu-like symptoms appear about nine to 14 days after the parasite is passed on.



US CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

THE ANOPHELES mosquito thrives in clean, flowing water like streams.

Treatment: Swift use of drugs to treat symptoms and kill the parasites in an infected person can significantly reduce the death toll. A new class of drug, based on the Chinese herb artemisinin, is highly effective. The cheapest drug, chloroquine, is rapidly losing its effectiveness because of resistance by the mutating *P. falciparum* parasite.

Vaccine: There is no vaccine available for malaria, although the number of prototypes on trial (at least 30 are currently being tested on human volunteers) is increasing. A trial vaccine tested among children in Mozambique last year was highly promising. But six more years of tests may be needed before it can be licensed.

Tackling malaria: In 1998, the Roll Back Malaria Global Partnership was launched by the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Program and the World Bank, with the goal of halving the number of deaths from malaria by 2010. Two billion dollars is needed annually to achieve this goal. Another significant program is the Malaria Vaccine Initiative, which aims to bring public and private skills together. *AFP*

Age of mistrust

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

HERE'S news that could possibly be more depressing than the thought of a world without bananas and their by-product, banana ketchup: children are growing up too fast. How fast? A study from Yale University shows that kindergarten pupils are cynical.

A cynic, according to Merriam-Webster dictionary, is a person "contemptuously distrustful of human nature and motives" or someone who believes "that human conduct is motivated primarily by self-interest."

The unhappy news is compounded by the first sentence of the Yale study, which appeared in last month's issue of the journal Psychological Science: "We all tend to think of young children as naive and gullible." Naive and gullible implies that children are unable to think for themselves, which is patently untrue. Kids tend to trust first and question later, whereas adults look for an ulterior motive behind everything that comes their way.

Kids can tell

Candace Mills, who just received her Ph.D. in developmental psychology from Yale and who will be teaching at the University of Texas in Dallas this September, co-authored the paper while still a graduate student with her mentor and dissertation adviser, Frank Keil. Despite the paper's pessimistic tone, she argues that children can tell when adults are lying, and specifically, when they're lying for personal gain.

How children learn to make such distinctions, and when they learn to do so, are topics for further research. For this study, however, Mills looked at whether or not children could tell if a person's self-interest biases the way he/she tells a story, and how identifying such a bias can develop over time.

Prior to the experiments, each child was asked to either listen to or read several short stories, each composed of a few short sentences about a main character who set out to win a game or sports competition. For example, one story that fell into the "with self-interest" category had a boy racing against his friend. The boy claimed that he had crossed the finish line first and therefore won the prize. However, at the end of the story the children learned that the boy had lied and that his friend had won. Each story had pictures which depicted the characters, the main character's claims, and the real outcome. Other pictures depicted the possible reasons the character lied, if he had.

Two experiments

Mills conducted two experiments with several children aged 6-12. The first experiment involved 20 kindergarten pupils, 20 Grade 2 pupils, and 20 Grade 4 pupils. The children were asked to distinguish between four kinds of stories described above, to determine whether or not the characters were telling the truth about the outcome of their stories, and to identify how the outcome affected the character's self-interests.

The results indicated that the children identified the lies and believed the true outcomes. When it came to factoring in self-interest, however, the 6-year-olds tended to believe statements involving self-interest though the Grace 2 pupils were able to recognize that self-interest might have biased the accounts.

The second experiment involved 20 kindergarten pupils, 20 Grade 2 pupils, 20 Grade 4 pupils, and 20 Grade 6 pupils. This time the children either heard or read only two kinds of stories: those with self-interest and those without self-interest. For each story, the children were asked to select the best explanation for the character's claims: 1) he lied on purpose; 2) his bias caused him to misunderstand the situation (he was focused on winning and thought he did); or, 3) the character made an honest mistake (he was focused on winning but wasn't sure he did).

The results showed that the younger children were more likely to think that the characters were lying, but all the children rarely opted for the bias option.

"People may attempt to deliberately deceive others, they may be influenced by biases that they are not even aware of, or they may simply be mistaken," Mills and Keil note in their conclusion.

However, they add, young children tend to believe that people who lie with their own self-interests in mind do so due to "a malicious intent to deceive."

Children trust first and question later, so when they looked for an ulterior motive behind everything that came their way, they learned to be wary and protected themselves. Sadly, this also means an early departure from the idealized concept of childhood. The question is, will children be less cynical and more, well, childlike, if faced with truth or well-intentioned lies?

Osteoporosis drug effective in reducing breast cancer recurrence

By Charles E. Buban

WHEN THE DRUG raloxifene was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration in December 1997, it was indicated for the prevention and treatment of the thinning of the bones, or osteoporosis, in post-menopausal women.

This may soon change in the light of a recent finding that the drug has an added benefit: it significantly reduces the risk for developing breast cancer.

After four years, the Continuing Outcomes Relevant to Evista (CORE) trial showed that the incidence of invasive breast cancer for women taking raloxifene was reduced by 59 percent compared with women taking a placebo, and the incidence of estrogen-receptor (ER)-positive invasive breast cancer was reduced by 66 percent.

Promising finding

"This finding is promising since the trial has shown the drug's long-term effectiveness in reducing breast cancer recurrence," said Lotis Calinawan of Eli Lilly, which markets the drug under the brand name Evista.

The CORE study is a continuation of Multiple Outcomes of Raloxifene Evaluation (MORE) trial, which assessed the drug's effectiveness in treating osteoporosis as well as its effectiveness in reducing breast cancer risk.

The MORE trial, which also lasted four years, found the incidence of breast cancer to be 72 percent lower in women taking raloxifene than in women taking a placebo.

The CORE trial was designed to examine the effect of an additional four years of treatment with the same drug in the same group of women.

8 years

Over the entire eight years of MORE and CORE, the incidence of invasive breast cancer and ER-positive invasive breast cancer was reduced by 66 percent and 76 percent, respectively.

Invasive breast cancer refers to cancer cells that have broken through the mammary duct and have spread to nearby healthy tissues. ER-positive breast cancer refers to cancer cells that need the hormone estrogen to grow.

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in women today, after lung cancer.

According to the World Health Organization, more than 1.2 million people will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year worldwide.

In the Philippines, breast cancer is the leading cause of death among women, with over 14,000 new cases estimated to be diagnosed this year, according to the Philippine Cancer Society.

The PCS estimates that some 6,000 women will die from breast cancer this year.

Tips on stress management

STRESS is a part of our lives. It is the way we react to certain conditions, changes and demands in our lives. Eustress, or normal stress in one's life, is good. It helps us face the challenges that come our way and the problems we have to solve. It makes us focus and helps us move forward.

However, distress, or too much stress, can be very bad. It can even lead to chronic health problems and inability to cope, or much worse, death. Being aware of unrelieved stress is not enough in reducing its harmful effects. This is why Watsons, in partnership with Stresstab and Advil, promotes its Pharmacy Self Care campaign on stress management.

Many sources

There are many sources of stress; and there are many possibilities for its management. All require work toward change: changing the source of stress and/or changing your reaction to it. Stress is a protective mechanism. Your body produces adrenalin when you're stressed, preparing you for "fight or flight."

When an organism experiences shock or threat, it releases hormones to survive. These stressors can either be positive or negative. For example, interviews cause applicants some negative feelings, but they are positive in that they eventually lead to accomplishment of a goal. Indeed, stress is a fact of life, but being stressed out is not. Overanxiety is not just a mental hazard but a physical one, too. Being stressed out makes us vulnerable to sickness and less open to the beauty and pleasure of life.

Helpful hints

Here are some helpful hints to help you manage your stress from Pauline Middleton, a Florida-based stress management consultant.

1 **Know what stresses you most.** Not your co-worker, friend, husband or wife. You!! Get your feelings out. Write them out and describe each situation. Share all bad feelings with a friend or in a journal. Before you can conquer your stresses you must know what is stressing you.

2 **Say no.** Focus on your own goals, not your spouse's or parents'. You must know yourself, your dreams and your passions. If asked to chair another group or take on another responsibility, look at your mission statement or goals for the day. If the additional task does not fit them, just say thank you but you will not be able to take on the job. Saying no is one of the hardest things in life, but it will help make you a success in your chosen field.

3 **Learn to relax.** Learn to meditate and take deep breaths to calm down. Work hard but know when to take time off to be with the family, go to the beach, or read a book. Work all day if you must, but when you get home, listen to your favorite CD, watch cartoons, or tell your child a story. This allows stress tension to go away and helps you calm the heart's pace, digest food normally and protect your immune system.

4 **Eat healthy.** Eat less junk food and more fruits and vegetables for an amazing overall lowering of stress levels. We can actually lower the amount of the bad stress hormone, cortisol, by taking multivitamins.

5 **Keep laughing.** Have a sense of humor. Studies show a good attitude helps lower cancer rates, makes surgery more effective, and keeps a relationship together through hard times. Laugh! Laugh! Laugh!

6 **Ask yourself why.** Why are you doing this? Write down your wants, needs, goals, hopes and dreams. Does what you are doing now help you fulfill any of these things? What is your motivation? The more you understand why you do what you are doing, the less stress you will have. If you cannot come up with a good reason, then stop doing it.

7 **Stay active.** Exercise is a great way to relive tension and gives you a great break from exams. A healthy body makes a happy body. Even a three-minute jog is helpful in taking your mind off your pressures. You'll come back with better focus and renewed energy.

8 **Follow your bliss.** Try to know which subjects and type of people you enjoy. Structure your life around activities that you love. The more you do in life that goes with your own flow, the more passion you'll have for what you do.

9 **Organize and prioritize.** Do the worst and hardest tasks first. Keep a to-do list and calendar with you at all times. If you fail to plan, you plan to fail.

These nine steps will help you get rid of that stress bug. These will make you recapture your peace and sanctity to perform better as a person.

While these stress management tips give you a deep and robust understanding of stress, it also produces a positive outcome on handling your unique stress circumstances. However, clean living, proper diet, right amount of exercise and multivitamins, can help you fight stress more efficiently and effectively.

Starting a medical practice

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

A YOUNG specialist in internal medicine, fresh from training, approached me after a lecture recently and expressed his apprehensions about starting a medical practice. I'm sure hundred others are faced with the same dilemma after having made up their minds that they would rather remain here as doctors than shift to nursing and work abroad.

"The field of [medical] practice is simply too wide for some, and too cramped for others," says Dr. Edward Tordesillas, one of the pioneers of family medicine in the country. He and his colleagues at the UP-PGH have mentored hundreds of family physicians now successfully practicing in various parts of the country, particularly in underserved areas. They have raised the level of general practice to a scientific evidence-based and socially relevant specialty of medicine. Their training program for family medicine has been used as a model in many training institutions here and abroad.

Solo practice

After surviving nine punishing years of medical education, including a year of internship, and passing the medical board exams, many doctors realize that they face another major crossroad. Some choose a residency training program in their chosen field of specialty, which means another three to five years of hectic training here or abroad.

"The remaining brave souls," says Dr. Tordesillas, "simply try their luck here and start hanging their MD signage in some busy intersection or marketplace. In most cases, they end up in 'solo' practice or share space with somebody already in place, or join some friends."

In the Philippines, "solo" practice means owning or renting a place, having a complete clinic setup and paying a secretary/receptionist who will receive calls and make appointments for the patients. It is not for the faint-hearted.

"Solo practitioners are usually general practitioners and family physicians brave enough to face competition, and slug it out with the stark realities of medical practice," says Dr. Tordesillas.

Advantages

He says solo practice may have other advantages that could make medical practice more gratifying. Solo practitioners usually boast of independence, being the boss and master of their clinic practice, observing an eight-hour daily schedule, exercising autonomy in practice decisions and having guaranteed flexibility.

"Doesn't that sound like a nice, attractive package?" he asks.

Since solo practice is more personalized, it helps physicians stay close to their patients. Administrative efficiency is simple and easy. Values are consistent with the practitioner's, putting the doctor in a better position to decide on important aspects of his practice.

Dr. Gordon Moore, a renowned solo practitioner in the USA, has espoused four themes for ideal practice: unbeatable access to care for patients, deep and personal patient interaction, utmost reliability in clinical care and practice, and vitality in terms of finances, physician and staff satisfaction and innovation.

Tips for solo practice

Dr. Tordesillas has these tips for those who plan to go into solo practice:

"In the Philippines, innovations in practice, such as [having] laboratory and diagnostic services and a pharmacy, are surefire ideas that would propel you to a successful solo practice. [A] busy and accessible location with ample parking will attract more patients."

"In medical practice, one of the essentials I consider one must cultivate is good PR. Good communication, bedside manners and close contact will go a long way. PR and competent medical management are marketing tools that a solo practitioner should develop to maintain the long list of patients in their clinic.

"For many Filipino family physicians, solo practice is a good strategy. It keeps one busy, and it opens the road to many career opportunities. Keep in mind that family practice is a specialty that satisfies the essence of a compleat physician."

ASK THE DENTIST
Paul R. De Castro, DMD

Relining a new denture

My denture is two weeks old and I complained to my dentist that it did not fit well. My dentist decided to do a reline. Isn't a reline done if the denture is already old?—Narciso B.

Sometimes because of the uncontrolled heat in denture processing, the material used in a new denture can warp. Thus you may have a denture that has a good shape, but the fine details are lost and so is a snug fit.

A reline will fix all the discrepancies by filling in the gaps where the denture warped, and your denture will fit a lot better.

E-mail your questions at dentalqs@yahoo.com.

More oxygen, more staying power and less body strain

FOR COMPLETE nutrition, a multivitamin supplement is essential. Aside from eating naturally nutritious food, taking a multivitamin capsule once a day will truly provide all the necessary nutrients required by the body.

A lot of multivitamins are in the market today, each promising various benefits to consumers. But what multivitamins are beneficial for both body and mind?

At a recent media forum, Pharmaton capsules were cited as a special supplement to enhance one's physical and mental wellbeing. Pharmaton contains a carefully blended mixture of vitamins, minerals, trace elements, mind-enhancing deanol and power-building standardized panax ginseng G115 that helps increase oxygen uptake significantly and improves mental and physical performance.

Importance of oxygen

Dr. Edgar Tolentino, who spoke during the forum, emphasized the importance of oxygen to sustain both brain and body. He is the executive assistant of the Department of Health's National Program for Mental Health and acting training officer of the psychiatry section of the department of neuroscience at the Makati Medical Center. He is an international member of the American Psychiatric Association and a board member and fellow of the Philippine Psychiatric Association.

The brain, Tolentino said, contributes two percent of the average person's weight but forms some 20 percent of the body's calories, making it the most energetic organ. The more active brain regions "burn" more glucose and oxygen, depending on the mental task being performed. Thus, oxygen intake in the body is vital to allow the brain to perform at its best.

Oxygenation

Oxygenation is the process by which oxygen in the lungs is absorbed by the bloodstream. Maximum oxygen capacity determines the human aerobic capacity—the most important indicator of peak performance and staying power. More oxygen uptake means more energy generated at less strain on the body, Tolentino explained.

Pharmaton's helps improve one's physical capabilities and helps the body cope with exhaustion and fatigue caused by stress. Standardized panax ginseng GII5 increases oxygen intake in the brain and body. Tolentino said it is statistically significant over placebo and proven to optimize physical and mental performance even for people undergoing stressful situation, having unhealthy lifestyles or eating an unbalanced diet.

Breathing exercises

To show how to increase oxygen intake in the body, Cory Quirino, a wellness advocate, media personality and Pharmaton user, demonstrated to the audience proper breathing exercises to optimize mental and physical performance. When one learns the proper way to breathe, she said, it will allow the body to perform at its optimum despite the stress and the challenges encountered daily.

"Breathing is essential to life, just like water and food are," Quirino reminded the audience. It delivers oxygen to every cell of the human body. She advised people to breathe "to live"—for circulation, metabolic function and relaxation. It recharges and empowers the body as well as the mind.

Belly-breathing

After her talk, Quirino conducted an "inhale-exhale" breathing exercise among the audience. She also coached them on the technique and benefits of belly-breathing. "Belly-breathing slows down the heart rate and the brain waves, delays aging, improves one's creative capacities and inspiration, calms the body and mind, and produces a healing effect on emotions."

Oxygenation is a fairly new concept in enhancing one's mental and physical capabilities. With Pharmaton capsules, said brand manager Myla Villanueva, the life-changing benefits of oxygenation are now in a multivitamin that can easily improve a person's professional and personal life, ensuring "You're always at your best."

New options for coronary artery disease patients

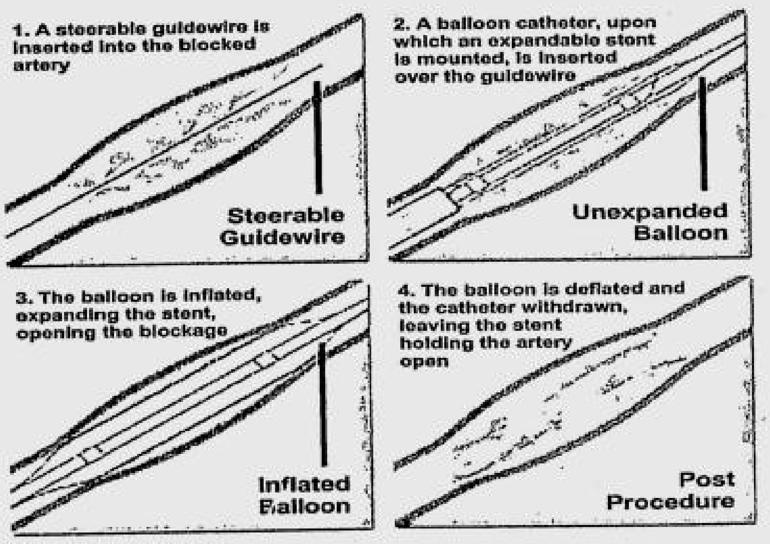
By Tessa R. Salazar

(Last of two parts)

THE PROCESS for stenting is the same as for balloon angioplasty. The inflated balloon expands the stent until it touches the artery wall, compressing the plaque and widening the artery, thus improving blood flow.

This time, however, after the balloon is deflated, and the catheter withdrawn, the expanded stent is left in the area permanently, holding the artery open.

The problem of renarrowing, however, did not disappear. About 15 to 25 percent of patients came back with scar tissues that grew inside the stent.


1. A steerable guidewire is inserted into the blocked artery
Steerable Guidewire
2. A balloon catheter, upon which an expandable stent is mounted, is inserted over the guidewire
Unexpanded Balloon
3. The balloon is inflated, expanding the stent, opening the blockage
Inflated Balloon
4. The balloon is deflated and the catheter withdrawn, leaving the stent holding the artery open
Post Procedure

CYPHER Sirolimus stent

Stent coated with drug

So cardiologists developed a stent coated with a drug that killed cells around the stent to prevent scar tissue growth.

Dr. David P. Lee also said that contrary to some reports, data from various studies done with the drug-eluting stent did not show increased blood clot formation, while the chance of scarring and renarrowing was reduced to 10 percent.

In April 2002, a new stent sponsored and developed by Johnson&Johnson—the Cypher Sirolimus-eluting coronary stent—was introduced and had its first market production in Europe. It promised to effectively reduce the chances of renarrowing to as low as 3 percent, according to Lee. Cypher eventually received US Food and Drug Administration approval and was introduced in the American market after a year.

Data from Johnson&Johnson showed that stents implanted worldwide now numbered 1.5 million. Since its approval by the Philippine Bureau of Food and Drug in 2003, J&J disclosed that the Sirolimus-eluting stent has been successfully implanted on nearly 2,000 Filipinos.

Lee also mentioned another drug-eluting stents (DES) available in the country, Taxus made by Boston Scientific.

"It uses a different drug and a different polymer and stent. In a head-to-head trial in Europe, there was only a very small difference in outcomes between the Cypher and Taxus," said Lee.

DES, however, still has its limitations, said Lee. He said there were still situations where the stent could not be delivered, and renarrowing still occurs inexplicably.

Still, Lee observed that DES has become a permanent option in cardiac treatment. "The current generation of DES is only the first of what I expect will be many," he said.

Costs, pros and cons

In the United States, a bypass surgery would cost anywhere between $50,000 and $100,000. Coronary stenting via DES costs from $12,000 to $20,000.

In another interview, Filipino cardiologist Dante Morales estimated that a bare metal stent procedure in the Philippines could cost anywhere from P150,000 to P260,000, while the DES could cost P250,000 to P500,000.

The cost of bypass surgery, in comparison could go up to P600,000 in private hospitals, and P120,000 in government hospitals for poor patients.

A stent is less expensive, but with recurrence, the cost for another stenting could double, said Morales, who is a medical director of Manila Doctor's Hospital and affiliated with the Makati Medical Center.

Morales added that not all cases could be applicable for stenting.

"Smaller than 2.25 mm is not done for many reasons: that small lumen or opening will not deliver significant supply of blood; that small is associated with high risk of restenosis and there are no available sizes that small," he said.

He added that there are also critical areas that cannot be considered for stenting outright.

Morales said that the risk of dying while in surgery is 2 percent, which is not bad. With increased age, the risk gets higher, which can reach up to a probability of 10 percent.

Real independence?

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

POLITICALLY we have achieved independence for half a century, but economically we are still lagging behind most countries in the region. This dismal situation can be linked to lack of scientific development, among other things. An AC Nielsen Europe survey revealed that China and India had the highest growth levels, and that they would be the powerhouses in our part of the world in 2005.

Sheng Huaren, former minister of China's State Economic and Trade Commission, and Sachin Chaturvedi, India's Research and Information System associate, agreed that their economic development was based on strong government support for research and development (R&D), especially in revitalizing traditional industries. In China, these included textile, metallurgy, sugar, petrochemical, building materials and coal. In India, the government since the 1980s has been heavily supporting information technology, biotechnology and other emerging fields.

How about us? Jowi A. Carteciano of MediaCore reports, "Development of our capabilities, including enhancement of skilled manpower, has been part of the economic agenda since the Ramos administration, yet R&D budget allocation is still stuck at less than 0.1 percent of the gross national product."

According to Science Undersecretary Fortunato dela Peña, Singapore and Taiwan allocate 2 percent to R&D.

Carteciano continues, "The National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP), the country's oldest basic research agency, only [allocated] 11 percent of its annual budget for R&D. It can only fund an average of 10 R&D projects per year, with an average of P300,000 each for a three-year project."

Thus, a lot of basic research in marine culture, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, and communication technology seldom reach the commercialization stage.

Taiwanese experience

Look at the case of Taiwan. In 1983, the government redefined its economic agenda toward domestic technology development, including granting financial aid to educational and research institutions. The grants included financing for personnel, equipment, books, hardware and software.

Taiwanese expert Dr. Chen-chi Ma notes, "Most of Taiwan's R&D projects are focused on major social, economic and employment problems, including telecommunication, hazard mitigation, agricultural biotechnology, biotechnology and pharmaceuticals, system-on-chips, nanoscience and nanotechnology. Taiwan now boasts of 1,767 domestic and foreign-patented technologies from these projects, aside from the 724 home-grown technologies transferred to local and multinational companies for commercialization."

Common problem

According to Carteciano, "For the last five years, NRCP has more than 200 technology outputs from R&D it funded awaiting commercialization. These include an antidiarrhea capsule from *lagundi* extract, an antitumor medicine from *bataw* seed lectin, improved artificial insemination process to increase swine production, a cross-breeding technique to improve [the country's] carabao species and computer software for grassland ecosystem management.

"However, getting these R&D output off the ground and transformed into marketable products is the most common problem that haunts scientists and researchers, especially those in government research laboratories and academe.

"[A]side from the very meager R&D fund allocation, the government doesn't have concrete strategic programs to facilitate the commercialization of matured technologies. Up to now, provision or inclusion of spin-off funds to the total R&D fund that would... cover the cost of protecting intellectual property rights, product-line management, marketing and advertisement, and other information campaign strategies is unresolved..."

Lack of laws, political will

Industry is not helping much either. Collaboration among government, academe and industry is poor. NRCP data show that for grants, industry only gives 15 percent of the total R&D funds.

Former Science Secretary Dr. William G. Padolina, now deputy director of the International Rice Research Institute, pinpoints the lack of appropriate laws and policies governing these issues, including a weak political will in implementing them. Aside from the Philippines, Padolina cited Nigeria (rich in oil), Indonesia (rich in wood) and South Africa (rich in diamond and gold) as countries with many natural resources, yet remain poor today.

What do we do now? Carteciano explains, "In this era, the New World order and the mode of wealth creation are knowledge-based and technology-driven. Economic progress is measured by generated knowledge. Production and trade are knowledge-intensive and the value of knowledge assets has surpassed the value of tangible assets of most organizations.

"In brief, goals [for] economic development hinge on well-supported R&D. Foremost in the [science and technology] agenda of the DOST are the enactment of a comprehensive technology transfer law and stronger policies focusing on attractive royalty sharing, promotion of technology-based entrepreneurship, assistance in acquiring patents and intellectual property rights, and academe-industry-government R&D collaboration schemes [to] encourage more funds from the private sector... to facilitate technology incubation..., transfer and commercialization."

May these plans bear concrete fruit, since our national development depends on them.

Fit or fat, you may still be prone to cholesterol-related heart disease

EATING healthy food or having a slim figure usually connotes that the person is in the pink of health, that all the dieting and cutting-off of certain foods can make a drastic impact on diminishing bad cholesterol from one's body. But having a healthy diet or a well-toned physique doesn't always guarantee exemption from the much-dreaded high cholesterol level and cardiovascular diseases.

In the Philippines, the rate of cases of cardiovascular disease has been steadily rising, and it now the No. 1 cause of mortality in the country, with a rate of 79.1 deaths per 100,000 people. But with the help of research studies, a greater understanding of heart diseases, knowledge of the risk factors and preventive measures have been made available to Filipinos.

Most notable risk factor

Among the most notable risk factors, high blood cholesterol is the one that poses a silent attack on the unsuspecting individual. High cholesterol levels are often caused by eating a diet high in saturated fat, being overweight, smoking and not exercising. However, there are also uncontrollable factors that can lead to high cholesterol levels and heart disease like age, sex, family history and other diseases such as infection and diabetes and high blood pressure.

Studies also found that cholesterol levels begin to rise after age 20 and men are usually more prone to it. According to recent data of the Department of Health, for every 100,000 Filipinos, about a total of 34,000 are afflicted with heart disease. Due to these findings, cardiovascular ailments are often thought to be a "male disease" as it mostly affects men on a certain percentage, basically due to their tendency to be "cavalier" about the risks.

Prevention

Although it is impossible to completely eradicate cholesterol from the bloodstream, prevention is the only key to avoid having heart disease. One of the ways that can help prevent cholesterol buildup is through dietary therapy or diets which are designed by a specific dietitian to lower cholesterol, including how much fat and saturated fat is relatively safe to take every day.

Consumption of certain products with plant sterols can also help lower the cholesterol levels in the bloodstream.

Other preventive measures are exercise and weight maintenance which are also important to be able to increase good cholesterol in the body and help lower if not eliminate low density lipoproteins (LPL), or bad cholesterol. It is also advisable to stop smoking as it decreases good cholesterol and promotes the buildup of deposits on the walls of the heart's arteries.

Whether you're a healthy or voracious eater, slim or on the heavier side of the scale, it helps to be aware of the dangers and risks posed by high cholesterol levels. The amount of knowledge you get and pass on to members of your family may be the one that can eventually save their lives.

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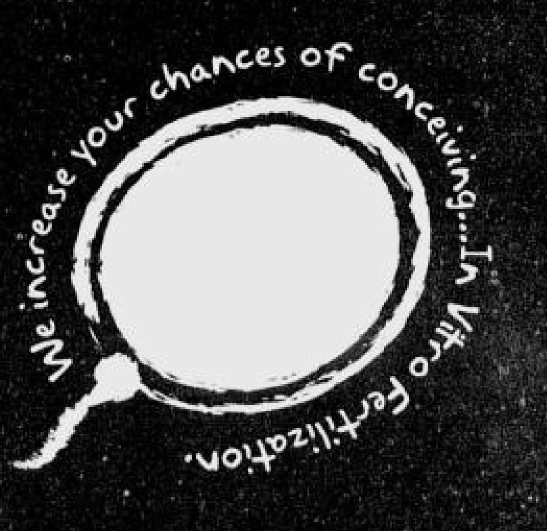
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Nesvita Pro-Heart fights cholesterol with plant sterols

FOR most middle-aged individuals, the traitor-like threat of cholesterol is often seen as a lurking monster ready to attack. This is why most people nowadays are in constant search for the proper diet and are ready to consider a change of lifestyle if needed. Thus the constant rave of experts and consumers about the newest breakthrough in food nutrition, plant sterols.

Plant sterols are substances that are found to reduce the risk of coronary heart disease by lessening the level of cholesterol in the body. Instead of just avoiding certain foods that are notorious for their fat content, the presence of plant sterols in one's daily meal gives people the best alternative to have a healthier diet.

Ever an ally in providing better nutrition to its consumers, Nestle introduces the first and only milk brand that can help lower cholesterol levels with regular intake, Nesvita Pro-Heart milk with Acticol. Combining the goodness of milk and scientifically proven cholesterol combatants called plant sterols, Nesvita Pro-Heart Milk with Acticol gives a new meaning to milk-drinking.

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Plant sterols: The cholesterol-buster

As cholesterol travels in the blood via proteins that are eventually absorbed by the cells produce hormones, vitamin D and fat-digesting bile acids, the excess of it in the bloodstream that is deposited in the arteries of the heart can also lead to heart disease.

Although its chemical structure is similar to cholesterol in the human body, plant sterols compete with bad cholesterol in the uptake into the cells and return the harmful low density lipoproteins (LDL) to the liver where it will be broken down. However, plant sterols are not produced by the human body or animals. These are heart-friendly substances that can be found naturally in a range of plant sources like vegetable oils, nuts, grains, seeds, wood pulp and leaves.

The natural cholesterol-busting plant sterols have been tested for efficacy since 1950s and it is found that a daily intake of 2 to 3g reduces LDL cholesterol levels by approximately 10 percent. Certain products that carry the labeling health claim on the plant sterols' role in reducing the risk of coronary heart disease was also recently approved by the US Food and Drug Administration, further adding to the proof of the plant sterols' beneficial properties even when incorporated in everyday food items.

Studies also show that plant sterols added to dairy products like milk help reduce cholesterol levels in the blood, thus, making it easier for milk drinkers to help fight LDLs on a daily basis. With this scientific finding, Nestle conducted extensive research and developed the unique solubilized form of plant sterols called Acticol which it incorporated it in low fat milk, creating the first and only cholesterol-lowering alternative available in the market today.

Heart disease-prone middle ages

Although most Filipinos in their 30's are aware of the increased health risks brought by their age, stress, fatty food intake and smoking, it takes a little more prodding for them to actively take steps to live a healthy lifestyle. This is the common dilemma of married women who are seen as the "guardians of health" in the family as they are in-charge of looking after each member's well being. Since they value their relationships and the overall health of their partners, women are constantly in search of the best measures to promote better health among their loved ones.

What's good to know is that aside from the usual efforts to fight cholesterol by avoiding fatty foods and quitting smoking, women can now urge their husbands and significant-others to take a healthy alternative such as drinking milk with plant sterols like Nesvita Pro-Heart with Acticol, which they can do on a regular basis.

Healthy drink for a healthy heart

For those who find it hard to follow a strict daily health regimen, food supplements, and inconsistent personalized diets are their only answer to a make-up for their body's health needs. As a result, they overlook the immediate need of following a routine that can help them avoid diseases in the future.

With the introduction of Nesvita Pro-Heart with Acticol in the market, simple acts like drinking milk everyday can now actually help avoid the risk of coronary heart disease. What's more, it doesn't take much effort to convince men to adopt it in their daily health rituals like exercise or food restriction since it tastes as good as the regular low-fat milk but has the additional benefit of lowering bad cholesterol in the blood.

Empowered women for healthier men

Taking note of the women's active role in keeping their family healthy, Nestle gives them the empowerment of providing better health options with products that cater to the specific needs of their loved ones.

Based on a consumer research conducted on Filipino adults, it is found that women are usually seen as the decision-makers in terms of what is put on the dining table because they have better knowledge of the nutritional needs of their family. The lady of the household often see efforts like scrutinizing labels of the products they buy as a sign of their love for their family, in order to be sure that they only get what is best for them. Products like Nesvita Pro-Heart Milk with Acticol empower women by giving them the easier alternative in helping live a healthier lifestyle.

As good health is one of the main facets that a person should value, Nesvita Pro-Heart helps them shield its importance by avoiding the dangers brought about by high cholesterol levels. Through the regular intake of Nesvita Pro-Heart along with a healthy diet, regular exercise and a balanced lifestyle, it is not an impossible goal to achieve overall good health that leads to a longer, more fruitful and fulfilled life with the family.

Malayan Bank to double real estate financing to P400M

MALAYAN Bank, a Savings and Mortgage Bank, is projecting to double its exposure in its Contract to Sell (CTS) financing facility by year 2006. The bank has currently committed more than P200M in CTS to 6 major developers with real estate projects in Metro Manila, Cavite, Binangonan, and Baliuag, Bulacan.

A non-revolving facility, the CTS makes it possible for credit-worthy real estate developers to liquefy their receivables from finished and substantially developed projects to finance their other projects. "The CTS facility helps developers accelerate real estate projects belonging to the low-end to mid-class housing developments, benefiting a lot of Filipinos, from first-time buyers to families and relatives of OFWs, among others", Malayan Bank president George Martinez said.

The bank, whose principal stockholders are Majalco Inc of the Martinez group of companies, Majent Mgnt and Dev Corp represented by Menardo Jimenez, formerly board chair of GMA, Channel 7, FLG Mgnt and Dev Corp, represented by lawyer Felipe Gozon, presently chair and CEO of GMA, Channel 7, William Carlos Uy, chair and CEO of Liberty Flour Mills and Dao Investment and Mgnt Corp of the family of Ambassador Howard Dee, projects to double its CTS financing facility by 2006. Malayan Bank was established in 1996.

MUNICIPALITY
OF POZORRUBIO

Reference No.: 127543
dated May 27, 2005

SF-GOOD-05

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Municipality of Pozorrubio, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers, manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : Supply of Materials for the Completion of Roofing @ 2nd Floor of Wet Market Section
Location : Public Market Phase I, Pozorrubio, Pangasinan
Brief Description : Materials for the Completion of Roofing @ 2nd Floor of Wet Market Section
Approved Budget for the Contract : P3,205,000.00
Contract Duration : 15 calendar days
Delivery Period : as per Notice to Proceed (to be issued later)

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last five (5) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Starts May 31, 2005
2. Pre-bid Conference	June 14, 2005 (9 AM-5 PM)
3. Submission of Letters of Intent and Application for Eligibility (if single-stage bidding is used, delete this activity)	Starts May 30, 2005
4. Opening of Bids	June 27, 2005 (2 PM)
5. Bid Evaluation	June 28, 2005
6. Post-qualification	July 1, 2005
7. Notice of Award	July 5, 2005

Select one of the following two paragraphs, deleting the other:

For single-stage bidding:

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P16,000.00 to the Municipality of Pozorrubio Cashier.

The Municipality of Pozorrubio assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) ENGR. AMERIGO S. GARCIA
BAC Chairman
BAC Secretariat #075-566-3646

The BAC Secretariat shall prepare the draft IAEB for approved by the BAC at the pre-procurement conference.

(PDI–June 11 & 18, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City
Healthline 637-9999 *www.philhealth.gov.ph*

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

BIDDING FOR SECURITY SERVICES FOR FY 2005-2007
No. 2005 – 012 s

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), through its Bids and Awards Committee for Goods and Services (BAC-GS), wishes to invite duly licensed Companies or Business firms to apply for eligibility and to bid for the provision of **Security Services at its Central Office, its Service Offices for Manila, Quezon City, and Las Piñas, its PHIC-OWWA Office, its PHIC Site in Quezon City, and its Rosario Warehouse for Fiscal Year 2005 to 2007**.

The approved budget for this two-year contract of Security Services is **Php 37,000,000.00** coming from **C.O.B. 2005.**

Bid documents can be obtained from **June 12 - 24, 2005**, 9:00a.m. to 4:00p.m. at the Office of the Secretariat for the Bids and Awards Committees in the Central Office, (Room 1107) 11th floor, PHILHEALTH, Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Blvd., Oranbo, Pasig City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Php10,000.00.**

A **pre-bid conference** will be held on **June 27, 2005 at 1:30p.m.** at the Office of the Secretariat for the Bids and Awards Committees in the Central Office (Room 1804).

Deadline of **Submission of Bids** will be on **July 11, 2005 at 12:00 noon** at the office of the BAC Secretariat (Room 1804) 18th Floor, PHILHEALTH, Citystate Centre. **Opening of Bids** will follow at **1:30 p.m.** at the same date and venue. The official time clock shall be the wall clock located at Room 1804 (Office of the BAC Secretariat). **Any bid submitted after the cut-off time will not be accepted.**

(Sgd.) OCTAVINO Q. ESGUERRA
Senior Vice President and Chief Actuary
Chairperson, BAC for Goods and Services

(PDI–June 11 & 17, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
SENATE
Pasay City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Senate of the Philippines invites all G-EPS registered bidders/suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following:

1. Project : VARIOUS FURNITURE REQUIREMENTS (CUSTOM-BUILT)
2. Approved Budget : Php.1,700,000.00
3. Location : Senate of the Philippines
4. Pre-bidding Conf. : June 15, 2005, 10:00 AM
5. Date of Delivery : July 29, 2005

The bid documents shall be available to interested bidders/suppliers at the BAC Secretariat Office, 4/F Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Building, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City starting June 13, 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of P200.00. Also, bid bulletins on the schedules of opening of bids and other information will be sent through fax.

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bid evaluation, and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

This Invitation is also advertised with the Government Electronic Procurement System (G-EPS) at www.procurementservice.org

For more information please call the BAC Secretariat Office at telefax no. 552-6601 local 1602 (c/o Rose de Castro or Jo Costo).

THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REVIEW ALL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS, REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, WAIVE ANY DEFECTS CONTAINED THEREIN AND ACCEPT THE OFFER MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT, AND THE RIGHT TO CONFISCATE THE BID BOND AND/OR PURSUE APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTION SHOULD THE WINNING BIDDER REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE AWARD.

FURTHER, THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION WHATSOEVER TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY THE BIDDER FOR ANY EXPENSE OR LOSS THAT THEY MAY INCUR IN PARTICIPATING IN THIS UNDERTAKING NOR DOES IT GUARANTEE THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ARNEL JOSE S. BAÑAS
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–June 11 & 12, 2005)

M&S RAFFLE WINNER

As a summer treat to its loyal patrons, Marks & Spencer, in cooperation with Ten Knots Development Corp, is taking two lucky shoppers on a vacation of a lifetime to El Nido Resorts in Palawan. For every P2,000 worth of single-receipt purchase at any Marks & Spencer store in the Philippines, an M&S Text-link or E-Link member can join the promotion. Arlene Asuncion (2nd from left), winner of the first draw held last May 19, is shown receiving a gift certificate from Apple Lina, PR and marketing manager of Ten Knots Development Corp. The winner will enjoy a 3-day, 2- night holiday package at Lagen Island Resort inclusive of roundtrip airfare for two persons. Also present during the awarding are (from left): Lucille Tolentino, merchandising division manager of Rustan Marketing Specialists Inc (RMSI), the official franchisee of Marks & Spencer in the country; Rommel Asuncion, husband of the winner; and Mags Bautista, Ten Knots Development Corp PR and marketing assistant. The second and final draw will be on July 21.

China Machinery and Electronic Products Exhibition 2005

THE BIGGEST and most comprehensive display of China machinery and electronic products will happen from June 9 to 12 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila. Over 300 Chinese nationals from over 100 highly reputable and big Chinese manufacturers and exporters of household electronics and appliances, automotive and motorcycle, parts and accessories, communication and automation, food equipment and packaging machinery, industrial machinery and construction equipment, railway project, power transmission, hardware products, machinery, lamps and lighting products, electric products, pumps and many more will participate in the "China Machinery and Electronic Products Exhibition 2005" which will occupy over 5,500 sqm of exhibition space. The exhibition was organized in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the Philippines. Co-organizing the event is the Federation of Electrical and Electronics Suppliers and Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc (Fessa). Appointed event manager is Global-Link Business Communications Phils Inc, any information regarding the event may be addressed to Jing Lagandaon at 750-8588 or 887-1304.

HYUNDAI MOTOR COMPANY COO VISITS HARI

Hyundai Motor Company's Kim Jae Il, newly-appointed COO and concurrent senior executive vice president and Han Chang Hwan, general manager/chief of Asia Regional Headquarters were greeted by Hyundai Asia Resources Inc managing director Fe P. Agudo during their arrival yesterday June 10, at the NAIA. The visit, which comes just after the successful launch of the new Hyundai models, is part of Kim's tour of Asean Distributors.

SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2005

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VILLA ANGELICA LA279m² FA157m² 4br 3tb P1.7M Vic 8903461 loc 27

LAS PINAS

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LAGUNA

Laguna Bel-Air Sta Rosa Low D/P Price Range P1.3M to 2M Edna 0917-8312369

MILAN CAMELLA HOMES 3Stry FA210m² LA78m² P1.7M VIC 8903461 LOC 27/25

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1.3M C5 Nr The Fort 12T/mo. or 4Yrs. No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mktl 0917-8169849

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LOT

KALOOCAN

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LAS PINAS

PillarVill lot for sale P5,500/m² 120sqm neg. 8255399 clean title direct buyer only

MANDALUYONG

Comm'l Lot Edsa 400m² 6453731

MARIKINA

1578sq.m Creme St 634-1212

PARANAQUE

100,200m² In-Hse Financing nr Rodriguez St. Moonwalk 0920-654-0954

PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD LA 333m² P4,054/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

QUEZON CITY

400m² Capitol Park 938-0719

RUSH LOT PARKWAY Q.C.300SQM 7337767/69/73/I|

OTHER AREAS

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BATANGAS

RANCHO VISTA SUBD LA613m2 P2,284/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m² P165/m² Vic 6903461 loc 27

LOT

CAVITE

DON BOSCO EXEC HTS LA128m2 P2,900/m2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

PARKPLACE SUBD LA149.30m² P6,028/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

PARKPLACE SUBD LA120m² P5,750/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

ST. CHARBEL DASMA nr SM 371m² P2,650/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

LAGUNA

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CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

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MANDALUYONG

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the deceased Felicidad Rasco Tam was the subject of extrajudicial settlement by her heirs as per Doc. No. 40 , Page No. 7, Book No. 1, Series of 2005 before Notary Public Luis D. Dictado of Daet, Camarines Norte as authenticated by Roberto F. Bernardo, Vice Consul, Consulate General of The Phil. City of Chicago State of Illinois USA on Feb. 11 2005 as per OR #2969810 , Service #3753 as per Doc. No. 644 PageNo. 25 Series of 2005 and Angelo S. Macalangay, M.D. Honorary Consul General, Phil. Honorary Consulate, City of Fort Lauderdale Florida, USA. Feb. 22, 2005 as per Doc. No. 465, Series of 2005, Or.No 2726866

(PDI- May 28, June 4 & 18, 2005)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Looking For LEA O. LORICA who used to work in Hong Kong 1983-1988 for the Chan Family - Kindly Contact Margaret +60122203009

LOOKING FOR STORE SPACE FOR BAKERY/BAKESHOP IN PARANAQUE, SUCAT, QUEZON CITY AND OTHER CITIES. FAX PROPERTY INFORMATION AND/OR RENT REQUIREMENTS TO 7321723 OR CALL 7317015

NOTICE OF LOSS

Alabang Country Club Cert. #A-1917 Issued to Bernardo B. Trinidad June 4, 11, 18, 2005

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Metro Manila Development Authority
PASIG RIVER REHABILITATION COMMISSION

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Project : *Pasig River Environmental Management and Rehabilitation Sector Development Program (PAREMAR)*
Loan No.: *Asian Development Bank (ADB) Loan No. 1746-PHI*
Description of Works : *Design, site development and construction of 1,160 socialized housing units in Kasiglahan Village 1 Resettlement Project Phase 2 for informal settlers to be relocated from the banks of the Pasig River*

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a loan from the ADB toward the cost of PAREMAR and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan, together with the GOP counterpart funds, to payments under the Contracts for Kasiglahan Village 1 Resettlement Project (Phase 2)
2. The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC), as the executing agency, now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the following contract package:

Contract Package	Design, Site Development and Construction of 1,160 Socialized Housing Units
Contract No.	EPA-RAP-H01
Location	Jovil 1 and 2, Kasiglahan Village 1, Rodriguez, Rizal
Contract Duration	360 Calendar Days
Project Description	Design, site development and construction of 1,160 socialized housing units, which include the following items of work: architectural works, structural works, electrical works, carpentry works, waterproofing, painting works, sanitary/ plumbing works, water supply, site work, site improvement and drainage work, among others.

3. Proposals will be accepted from licensed private developers, GOP enterprises the majority of which is publicly-owned including local-government units (LGUs) and non-government organizations (NGOs) with demonstrated track record in the development of sustainable communities including social preparation, design and construction of socialized/low-cost housing units employing community-participation and post-relocation capability-building activities. Licensed private developers, GOP Enterprises/ LGU and NGOs could submit proposals either as individual bidders, individual bidders with subcontractors or as joint ventures or partners. Interested Bidders shall secure the Bid Documents and submit bids as follows:

Activity	Date	Venue
Securing of (a) Eligibility Checklist or (b) submission of Letter of Intent and purchase of complete set of Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 10,500.00	June 15 to June 29, 2005	PRRC
Securing of additional eligibility information (if any) and inspection of Bidding Documents	June 16 to June 29, 2005	PRRC
Site Inspection	July 4, 2005/ 9:00 a.m.	NHA
Pre-Bid Conference	July 4, 2005/ 1:00 p.m.	NHA
Deadline for submission of Bids	October 4, 2005/ 10:00 a.m.	NHA
Opening of Bids	October 4, 2005/ 10:15 a.m.	NHA

4. The National Housing Authority (NHA) shall be the implementing agency of the Project.
5. Bidding (Eligibility Check/Prequalification, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract) shall be conducted on the basis of local competitive bidding among interested Bidders from ADB eligible source countries as defined under the *"Guidelines for Procurement by the Asian Development Bank and its Borrowers"* pursuant to the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. No. 9184 and ADB Guidelines for the Procurement of Civil Works as standardized under the harmonized ADB-GOP Procurement of Works bid documents.
6. The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at anytime prior to Contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **BINGLE H.B. GUTIERREZ**
Executive Director, PRRC

(Sgd.) **FEDERICO A. LAXA**
General Manager, NHA

(PDI - June 11 & 18, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY
Cebu Maritime Regional Office
Ground Floor CCCI Center, cor. 11th & 13th Avenues,
North Reclamation Area, Cebu City

Case No. CMRO 05-139

RE Application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate a liner service in the operation of its ships in its/their applied route for the carriage of passengers and cargoes and to charge deregulated rates and to operate under a deregulated schedule of trips pursuant to Republic Act No. 9295 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations

KEYWEST SHIPPING LINES CORPORATION,
Applicant.

x--x

ORDER

This refers to the Application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate the following ships in its/their route/s, under the following sailing frequency/ies, schedule of trips and rates:

FOR TRAMP OPERATIONS:

Name of Ship	Area of Operation	Service/s offered/to be offered
MV STRONG CAGAYAN	Any ports in the Philippines	Carriage of Cargoes
MV STRONG FAITH	Any ports in the Philippines	Carriage of Cargoes
MV STRONG HOPE	Any ports in the Philippines	Carriage of Cargoes
MV STRONG HEART	Any ports in the Philippines	Carriage of Cargoes

The Applicant shall cause the publication of this Order once in a newspaper once in any of the five (5) major newspapers of national circulation in the Philippines.

The Applicant shall likewise simultaneously cause the posting of this Order in a conspicuous place at the affected ports, ships, Applicant's premises, passenger terminal/s and ticketing offices as applicable.

The Applicant shall present the jurisdictional, qualification and documentary requirements in a summary proceeding to be conducted on June 16, 2005 at 2:00 P.M. at the Hearing Room, Cebu Maritime Regional Office Ground Floor, CCCI Bldg cor. 11th & 13th Avenues, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City which is within seven (7) days from the date of publication/posting.

The Applicant shall be required to make a written Formal Offer of Evidence (FOE) after which the application is deemed submitted for resolution/ decision.

WITNESS, the Honorable Administrator, VICENTE T. SUAZO, JR. this 8th day of June 2005 at Cebu City, Philippines.

(Sgd.) GLENN G. CABANEZ
Regional Director

(PDI - June 11, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY
Cebu Maritime Regional Office
Ground Floor CCCI Center, cor. 11th & 13th Avenues
North Reclamation Area, Cebu City

Case No. CMRO 05-131

RE Application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate a liner service in the operation of its ship/s in its/their applied route for the carriage of passengers and to charge deregulated rates and to operate under a deregulated schedule of trips pursuant to Republic Act No. 9295 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations

PLATINUM SHIPPING CORPORATION,
Applicant.

x--x

ORDER

This refers to the Application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate the following ship/s in its/their route/s, under the following sailing frequency/ies, schedule of trips and rates:

FOR TRAMP OPERATION:

Name of Ship	Area of Operation	Service/s Offered/to be Offered
MV N Z O	Any ports in the Phils	Carriage of cargoes only
MV S K O	Any ports in the Phils	Carriage of cargoes only

The Applicant shall cause the publication of this Order once in a newspaper once in any of the five (5) major newspapers of national circulation in the Philippines.

The Applicant shall likewise simultaneously cause the posting of this Order in a conspicuous place at the affected ports, ships, Applicant's premises, passenger terminal/s and ticketing offices, as applicable.

The Applicant shall present the jurisdictional, qualification and documentary requirements in a summary proceeding to be conducted on June 16, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. at the Hearing Room, Cebu Maritime Regional Office, Ground Floor, CCCI Bldg., cor 11th and 13th Avenues, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City which is within seven (7) days from the date of publication/posting.

The Applicant shall be required to make a written Formal Offer of Evidence (FOE). Afterwhich, the application is deemed submitted for resolution/decision.

WITNESS, the Honorable Administrator, VICENTE T. SUAZO, JR. this 3rd day of June 2005 in Cebu City, Philippines

(Sgd.) GLENN G. CABANEZ
Regional Director

(PDI—June 11, 2005)

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that at a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors/Stockholders of Philippine Metal Resources Corp. held on Nov. 15, 2004, the Board decided that the Corporation be retired, dissolved and closed for business effective December 31, 2004.

(PDI - June 11, 18 & 25, 2005)

NOTICE TO ALL BUSINESS NAME REGISTRANTS

PURSUANT TO SECTION 12 (A) OF DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 15 SERIES OF 1990, THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY THROUGH THE BUREAU OF TRADE REGULATION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION, CANCELS FROM THE RECORD ALL BUSINESS NAME REGISTRATIONS WHICH EXPIRED AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2004 EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2005.

UNDER THE BUSINESS NAME LAW (ACT NO. 3883), AS AMENDED, OWNERS OR PROPRIETORS SHOULD RENEW THEIR BUSINESS NAME REGISTRATION UPON EXPIRATION THEREOF.

THIS ANNOUNCEMENT SERVES AS A FORMAL NOTICE TO ALL CONCERNED.

FOR STRICT COMPLIANCE.

11 June 2005, Makati City

(Sgd.) VICTORIO MARIO A. DIMAGIBA
Director, BTRCP

(PDI—June 11, 2005)

Association of the Philippines
Management

PERSONNEL Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) signs MOA with Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) for the conduct of the First PMAP CEO Summit in cooperation with MAP to be held on Aug 4,2005 at the Makati Shangrila. Shown in the photo from left to right: Mr. Franco G. Del Rosario Co-Chair of MAP CEO Conference Committee; Mr. Simon R. Paterno, MAP President; Ms. Lina A. Aseneta, FPM, PMAP President ; and Mr. Joji U. Deduque,FPM, PMAP Chairperson of International Affairs Committee.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Central Luzon Regional Office
Cabanatuan City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR HAULING/TRUCKING SERVICES

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY - Central Luzon Regional Office (NFA-CLRO), Cabanatuan City invites all interested Hauling/Trucking Operators to apply for eligibility and to bid for the delivery of grains from Subic Port to the different provinces and warehouses in Region III and Region II with targeted volume per lot and Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) as follows:

A. NFA IMPORTATION FROM SUBIC PORT

LOT #	RECEIVING PROVINCES	REGION	RECEIVING WAREHOUSES	DISTANCE (KM)	VOLUME BAGS	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
I	AUR	III	Baler	252	12,000	P 606,863.40
			Ma Aurora	270	6,000	P 331,854.60
			Casiguran	372	8,000	P 657,223.60
				Total	26,000	P 1,595,941.60
II	PAM		San Fernando Ct	75	60,600	P 797,970.20
			Mexico	86	20,400	P 294,647.97
				Total	81,000	P 1,092,618.17
III	ZLS		3iba	83	25,000	P 348,492.10
			Wawandue-Subic	1-30	9,000	P 81,675.00
				Total	34,000	P 430,167.10
IV	Cagayan	II	Tuguegarao/Carig	511	12,000	P 556,479.00
			Gonzaga	608	14,000	P 772,464.00
				Total	26,000	P 1,328,943.00
	Isabela		Santiago	351	12,000	P 382,239.00
			Roxas	415	11,000	P 414,273.75
			Tumauini	459	1,000	P 41,654.25
			Cauayan	397	1,000	P 36,027.75
			Cabagan	486	10,000	P 441,045.00
			Luna	404	10,000	P 366,630.00
				Total	45,000	P 1,681,869.75
	N. Viscaya		Bayongbong	288	25,000	P 733,713.75
			Bagabag	313	27,000	P 821,124.51
				Total	52,000	P1,554,838.26
	Quirino		Maddela	390	1,000	P 35,392.50
			Diffun	355	4,000	P 135,036.00
			Cabarroguis	362	11,000	P 361,366.50
				Total	16,000	P 531,795.00
	Allacapan		Matukay	595	7,000	P 376,703.25
	Ifugao		Potia	353	3,000	P 96,104.25
	Tabuk		Bulanao, Tabuk	498	6,000	P 271,161.00
			Grand Total Region II			P 5,841,414.51

The minimum number of trucks required must be registered as "Trucks-for-Hire" from Land Transportation Office (LTO). The prospective bidder may bid in any or all specified lot/preferred destinations upon payment of a non-refundable application fee of P500.00, bidding fee of P2,500.00 and submission of a certified photocopy of the following basic requirements:

1) DTI business name registration, CDA Registration and/or SEC Registration certificate, whichever may be appropriate;
2. Valid and current Mayor's Permit and Official Receipt.

The Issuance of bid documents, pre-bidding conference and bidding proper shall be conducted at NFA-CLRO, Conference Room, Cabanatuan City on the following schedule:

PARTICULARS	DATE
1. Issuance of Application and Bidding Documents	June 6, to 20, 2005 (8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Regular WD)
2. Pre-bidding Conference	June 21, 2005 (2:00 PM)
3. Deadline of Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals (Opening of Bids will follow immediately)	July 5, 2005 (2:00 PM)

Eligibility criteria includes, among others that the venue of the prospective bidders largest single contract adjusted to current prices completed and similar to the contract to be bid, must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

The bidding shall be governed by RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations. For further inquiries, please contact the RBAC Chairman or Secretariat at NFA-CLRO Cabanatuan City at Telephone Nos. (044) 463-1167 or (044) 463-1168.

THE NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS THEREOF, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES OR DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS OR TO AWARD TO ANY CONTRACTOR WHOSE BID IS CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NFA AND/OR TO THE GOVERNMENT.

(Sgd.) **RUBEN J. RESIDE**
Asst. Regional Director & RBAC Chairman

(PDI - June 4 & 11, 2005)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Central Luzon Regional Office
Cabanatuan City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR GRAINS HANDLING SERVICES NFA REGION III

The National Food Authority NFA Central Luzon Regional Office, Cabanatuan City invites all interested Grains Handling Services Contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for handling the movement of grain stocks and by-products in the warehouses, ricemills and other installations of Region III and to load/unload to/from trucks said commodities with an Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for the year 2005 as follows:

PROVINCES	LOT NO.	LOCATION OF WAREHOUSE	VOLUME TO BE HANDLED (IN BAGS)	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
Aurora	I	GID-Baler	111,600	441,936.00
		Bartolome-Ma. Aurora		
		GID-Casiguran		
Bataan	II	GID 1 & 2 - Balanga	128,500	493,440.00
		FLGC-Dinalupihan		
Bulacan	III	GID 1, 2 & 3 - Balagtas	253,500	1,064,700.00
	IV	GID 1 & 2 - San Ildefonso	308,500	1,295,700.00
	V	GID - Tikay	210,000	882,000.00
	VI	GID 1 & 2 - Sta Rita	133,500	560,700.00
	VII	TLL Warehouses-Marilao	330,000	1,386,000.00
Nueva Ecija	VIII	Whse 1-13 - Cab City	542,600	2,300,624.00
		Whse 1 & 2 - Gapan		
	IX	Aliaga Whse - Aliaga	136,300	577,912.00
		GID - Bongabon		
		Guimba Whse 1-2		
Pampanga	X	Sindalan 1 and 2	275,000	1,127,500.00
	XI	Del Rosario Whse	140,000	574,000.00
Zambales	XII	GID and Mango Terminal	97,000	424,860.00
	XIII	Wawandue Whse	40,000	175,200.00

The prospective bidder may bid in any or all lots upon payment of a non-refundable application fee of P500.00, bidding fee of P1,500.00 and submission of a certified photocopy each of the following documents:

1. DTI business name registration, CDA Registration and/or SEC registration certificate, whichever may be appropriate;
2. Valid and current Mayor's Permit/Official Receipt.

The Issuance of bid documents, pre-bidding conference and bidding proper shall be conducted at NFA-CLRO, Conference Room, Cabanatuan City on the following schedule:

PARTICULARS	DATE
1. Issuance of Application and Bidding Documents	June 6, to 22, 2005
2. Pre-bidding Conference	June 23, 2005 (10:00 AM)
3. Deadline of submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals (Opening of Bids will follow immediately)	July 7, 2005 (10:00 AM)

Eligibility criteria includes, among others that the value of the prospective bidder's largest single contract, adjusted to current prices using the wholesale consumer price index completed and similar to the contract to be bid, must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

The bidding shall be governed by RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations. For further inquiries, please contact the RBAC Chairman or Secretariat at NFA-CLRO, Cabanatuan City with Telephone Nos. (044) 463-1167, (044) 463-1168 and (044) 463-1233.

THE NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS THEREOF, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES OR DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS OR TO AWARD TO ANY CONTRACTOR WHOSE BID IS CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NFA OR TO THE GOVERNMENT.

(Sgd.) **RUBEN J. RESIDE**
Asst. Regional Director / RBAC Chairman

(PDI - June 4 & 11, 2005)

NFA Cotabato reactivates 'Palengke Watch Teams'

NATIONAL Food Authority regional director Francisco C. Garcia has instructed the agency's provincial managers in the region to reactivate their 'Palengke Watch Teams' to strictly monitor the supply and price of rice and apprehend violators of NFA rules and regulations on grains distribution. Garcia assured consumers in the whole region of sufficient supply of rice especially for the lean months of July to September. Meanwhile, NFA Maguindanao provincial manager Kitem P. Kadatuan assured the visibility of good quality NFA rice in the province. He said that supply of rice is sufficient with the ongoing positioning of stocks at the NFA GID warehouse in Shariff Aguak and with the 39,000 bags of palay for milling to augment the arrival of rice stocks from Davao and General Santos City. In Lanao del Sur, the Tinda Van of NFA is being used in the delivery of NFA rice allocations to accredited retailers and bigasan outlets in the public markets under the supervision of provincial manager Sittienaidah S. Sampaco and the Palengke Watch Team. Likewise, stock shipments are being undertaken from NFA Zamboanga City to NFA Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi to assure the island provinces' rice supply during the coming lean months.

We've added another dignified service to keep the memory of your departed loved ones.

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
CREMATORY SERVICES
ON CALL 24 HOURS A DAY
105 years
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OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

I have fought
the good fight,
I have finished
the race,
I have kept
the faith

(2 Timothy 4)

The family of the late

ROGELIO DIWA ABELLA

(March 26, 1936 – June 11, 1995)
lovingly remembers him on his
Tenth Death Anniversary
through the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
at the following churches:

Parish of St. Catherine of Siena	Samal, Bataan	4:30 p.m.
Cathedral Parish of St. Joseph	Balanga, Bataan	6:30 a.m.
Espiritu Santo Parish	Tayuman, Tondo, Manila	7:00 a.m.
St. Joseph Parish	Gagalangin, Tondo, Manila	6:30 a.m.
Immaculate Conception Parish	Tayuman, Tondo, Manila	6:00 a.m.
Santa Cruz Parish	Sta. Cruz, Manila	6:30 a.m.
Mary the Queen Parish	Novaliches, Quezon City	6:00 a.m.
The Ascension of Our Lord Parish	Lagro, Novaliches, Quezon City	6:30 a.m.
St. John Bosco Parish	Arnaiz St., Makati City	6:00 a.m.
Parish of the Holy Sacrifice	UP, Diliman, Quezon City	12:00 p.m.

"...Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord...
they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them."
(Rev. 14:13)

Elder Li Tong Pek

December 20, 1921 - June 6, 2005

His body lies in state at the National Memorial Chapel
141-26 Northern Blvd., Flushing, NY 11354.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, June 10, 2005, 7:00 p.m. and funeral will be on Saturday, June 11, 2005, 9:30 a.m.

We, his wife Josefa C. Li, children and grandchildren and other relatives welcome you to join us in thanking God in prayer for His gift of life and joy and sharing Father with us.

Papa, we love you!

We accept Classified advertisements
Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding

in Visayas

Diri na ta sa INQUIRER bay! Sayon na sulit pa!

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Bacolod City
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Rm. 201 Jesever Bldg. 2
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Fuente Osmeña St., Cebu City
Tel. No. (032) 256-1954
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Hi-Top News Magazine &
General Merchandise
Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
Tel. Nos. (035) 225-5796/225-4364
Mr. Ramon Charles Sy
New Renie's
Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
Tel. Nos. (035) 225-4320/422-7452
Fax No. (035) 255-1182
Iloilo
Mr. Eduardo Ty
c/o Ms. Marilou Ty
Eddie-Mar News & Magazine Center
Ground Floor, Bombo Radio Building
Mapa Street, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 337-3120/337-6018

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Mr. Jim Feliciano
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Tagbilaran City
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NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 55% according to the 2000 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

FIDEL R. ILANO, Jr., M.D.

of Bacoor, Cavite; Imus Institute Class '54
& UP College of Medicine Class '62

Peacefully joined our Lord
on June 9, 2005 at the age of 67.

His wife **Erlinda**; brother **Reynaldo**; children **Fidelinda, Rosemarie & Galahad, Francis & Mary Ann, Freida, Estrellita & Noel** convey our gratitude for all your prayers & support.

His body lies in state at the Bahay Ugnayan – Samson Vigil Spaces, 145 Bayan Luma 1, Imus, Cavite.

Interment will be on Thursday, June 16, 2005 at Angelus Eternal Garden after the 1:30 p.m. Holy Mass at Imus Cathedral.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.
Always caring... INQUIRER OBITUARIES
WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments
OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)
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DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I shall live in the house of the Lord forever"
Psalm 23:6

P/MAJ. CESAR DE JESUS DALANON (Ret.)

of Milagros, Masbate, Quezon City and Marikina City
October 9, 1932 - June 8, 2005

Most decorated Police Officer in his time
Five times awarded as Most Outstanding Policeman of Quezon City
And twice as Most Outstanding Police Officer in the Philippines
from 1967 - 1980

The bereaved wife **Purita Montante Dalanon**; children **Darlene & Steve Kruchkowski, Pierre & Josephine Intertas, Cecille & Ken Browne**, and **Cesar Jr.**; grandchildren **Xid, Jasmine** and **Jonathan**; sister **Dra. Eden Dalanon**; nephews and nieces, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Inc., 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

"In peace I shall both lie down and sleep
for You alone Lord make me secure."
(Psalm 4:9)

CLASSIFIEDS

Philippine Daily Inquirer
MESSAGEBOARD

A DAD'S DAY TREAT

Let the country know how much your dearest **FATHER** means to you by writing him a **deeply felt love note** in the widest read and circulated broadsheet in the country.

On **June 19, Fathers' Day, Inquirer Classifieds** will publish personal ads dedicated to the **fathers** on his special day.

Itay Kiko,
Ikaw ang pinakamagandang regalo ipinagkaloob sa akin ng Diyos. Mahal na mahal kita!
SCC
1 col X 5 cm = P 500

Papa Darwin,
Happy Father's Day! We love you!
Darla & Ken
2col X 3 cm = P 500

Daddy Rading,
Any man can be a father, but it takes a special person to be called a Dad!
Baby Lanze
1col X 3 cm = P 200

Daddy Jojo,
Thank you for all the love you shower on us...
Jojo, Jeje, Juppy & Jala
1 col X 2 cm = P 100

Dearest Daddy Esay,
I always thank the Lord for having you everyday, giving me what you think is necessary and proper.

Happy Father's Day! God bless you always!
Love,
Ching
2 col X 5 cm = P 1,000

Grab this offer and this **GIFT** is what your **FATHER** truly deserves.
For more info, you may visit or call any Inquirer branch.

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY
Cebu Maritime Regional Office
Ground Floor CCCI Center, cor. 11th & 13th Avenues,
North Reclamation Area, Cebu City

Case No. CMRO 05-125

RE: Application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate a liner service in the operation of its ships in its/her applied route for the carriage of passengers and cargoes and to charge deregulated rates and to operate under a deregulated schedule of trips pursuant to Republic Act No. 9295 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

MICHAEL INC.,
Applicant.
x-------------------x

ORDER

This refers to the Application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate the following ship/s in its/their route/s under the following sailing frequency/ies, schedule of trips and rates:

FOR TRAMP OPERATIONS:

Name of Ship	Area of Operation	Service/s offered/to be offered
MTKR JASAAN	Any ports in the Philippines	Carriage of non-persistent oil
LCT ELIAKIM	Any ports in the Philippines	Carriage of cargoes only
MTKR ALEXIA	Any ports in the Philippines	Carriage of non-persistent oil
MTKR OIL CARRIER	Any ports in the Philippines	Carriage of non-persistent oil
MTKR ST. AUGUSTINE	Any ports in the Philippines	Carriage of non-persistent oil
MTKR AFGINA	Any ports in the Philippines	Carriage of persistent oil
MBARGE SSS-57-G	Any ports in the Philippines	Carriage of Liquid Cargoes

The Applicant shall cause the publication of this Order once in a newspaper once in any of the five (5) major newspapers of national circulation in the Philippines.

The Applicant shall likewise simultaneously cause the posting of this Order in a conspicuous place at the affected ports, ships, Applicant's premises, passenger terminals and ticketing offices as applicable.

The Applicant shall present the jurisdictional, qualification and documentary requirements in a summary proceeding to be conducted on June 14, 2005 at 2:00 P.M. at the Hearing Room, Cebu Maritime Regional Office, Ground Floor, CCCI Bldg. cor. 11th & 13th Avenues, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City which is within seven (7) days from the date of publication/posting.

The Applicant shall be required to make a written Formal Offer of Evidence (FOE) after which the application is deemed submitted for resolution/decision.

WITNESS, the Honorable Administrator, VICENTE T. SUAZO, JR. this 2nd day of June 2005 at Cebu City, Philippines

(Sgd.) GLENN G. CABANEZ
Regional Director

(PDI – June 11, 2005)

NFA deploys 70 rolling stores in Metro Manila

THE NATIONAL Food Authority will deploy an additional 40 rolling stores in addition to the 30 presently serving Metro Manila in response to instructions by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to agriculture secretary Arthur C. Yap to ensure the continuous visibility and accessibility of low-priced NFA rice and other basic commodities. NFA administrator Gregorio Y. Tan, Jr. said that the food agency's rolling stores will continue to sell two varieties of government rice, prices at P16 per kg for regular-milled rice (RMR) under the government's pro-poor program, and P18/kg for the upgraded well-milled rice (WMR). Tan said that aside from the two rice varieties, the other commodities to be sold by the rolling stores are sugar, noodles, milk, coffee, cooking oil and canned sardines. These commodities are priced relatively lower than other outlets as the food agency's assistance to the depressed areas not only in Metro Manila but in the provinces as well.

LEYTE II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
(LEYECO II)
Real Street, Sagkahan District, Tacloban City
Tel. Nos. (053) 321-4292, 321-2809, 321-3710

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Leyte II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (LEYECO II) invites suppliers to pre-qualify and bid for the supply of the following items:

1.) 1,300 pcs. GE kWh meters, Class 100, 15-30 amperes, without meter base, brand new, single phase, type I-70-S / 1, socket type, 2 wire, 240 volts
2.) 3 units Secondary Circuit Breakers, Vacuum Type, 14.4 KV
3.) one (1) unit 20 MVA power transformer
4.) 1,038 pcs. Centrifugal Round Concrete poles (consignment basis)
5.) 576 pcs. Octagonal hot-dipped Galvanized Steel poles (consignment basis)
6.) Various electrical hardwares and conductors

A pre-qualification of bidder conference will be held on June 17, 2005 at the LEYECO II office at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. The following documents have to be presented, to wit:

a.) Letter of Intent / Company Profile
b.) Original / Certified True Copy of Suppliers' License / Accreditation
c.) Business Permit
d.) SEC Registration
e.) Certified True Copy of the latest Financial Statement and latest Income Tax Return

Bidding documents and detailed technical specifications shall be issued to pre-qualified bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of TWO THOUSAND PESOS (P2,000.00). Time & venue of the opening of bids shall be discussed during the pre-bid conference. Sealed offers must be accompanied by a bid bond equivalent to 5% of the total bid offered.

LEYECO II reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any formality thereof and to accept only such bids that are advantageous to the cooperative. The decision of the cooperative is final and binding.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. BARTOLOME P. COBACHA**
PBAC Chairman

(PDI–June 11, 2005)

Flying V, Seaoil raise oil prices by 50¢/liter

By Abigail L. Ho

FOLLOWING the lead of their bigger counterparts, Flying V and Seaoil Petroleum Corp. yesterday jacked up prices of their gasoline, diesel and kerosene by 50 centavos a liter.

Eastern Petroleum Corp. led the pack of independent oil companies, implementing its price hike at noon Thursday.

Flying V followed suit at 1 a.m. yesterday, with Seaoil reflecting higher pump prices on the same day.

Big 3 oil firms Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Caltex Philippines Inc. hiked prices first, led by Shell at noon on Wednesday, followed by Petron at 6 p.m. and Caltex at 12:01 a.m. the next day.

Since the start of the year, oil firms have jacked up gasoline prices nine times, for a total hike of P4.85 a liter, and diesel fuel 10 times by a total of P5.05 a liter.

Premium unleaded gasoline now retails at between P29.20 and P31.17 a liter, diesel at between P26.65 and P28 a liter, and kerosene at between P28.20 and P29 a liter.

The oil firms all cited the escalating prices of oil in the world market as the reason for the recent pump price increase.

To mitigate the impact of this new price hike on the public transport sector, however, the oil firms all committed to maintain diesel discounts of at least P1 a liter for public utility vehicles.

World oil prices began to climb again with the advent of the summer driving season in the US.

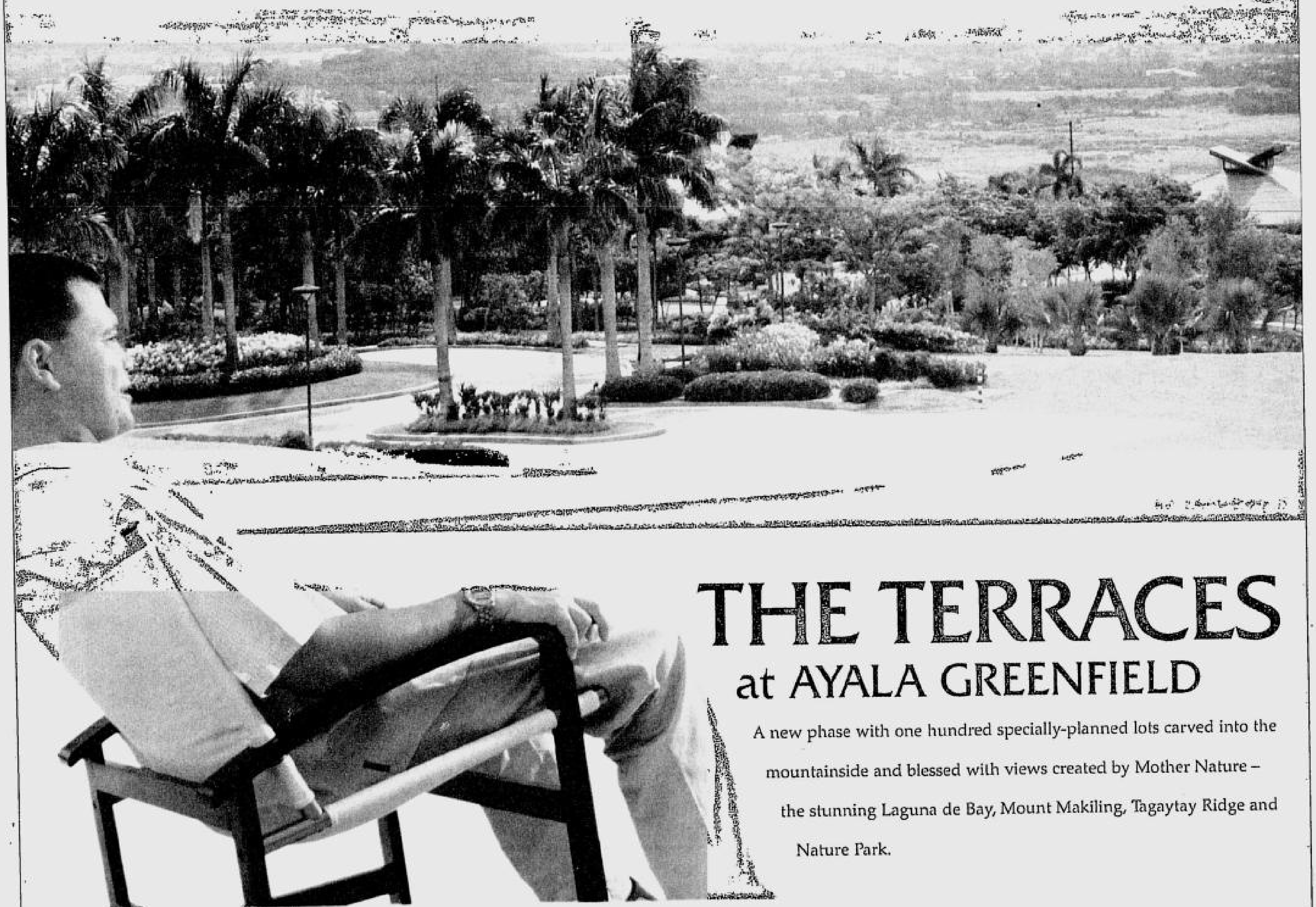
According to the Department of Energy, the regional benchmark Dubai crude rose to a June 1-8 average of $49.13 a barrel, more than $4 higher than the May average of $45.39 a barrel.

The price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) bellwether for refined petroleum products likewise climbed to $56.90 a barrel in the first eight days of June, up by more than $2 a barrel from the May average of $54.46 a barrel.

MOPS-based diesel also surged to a June average of $68.21 a barrel, more than $5 a barrel higher than the $62.74-a-barrel average last month.

OIL PRICE HIKE

PROTESTERS pull a passenger jeep during a recent demonstration in front of a gasoline station in Quezon City. More protests are expected with the oil companies again raising their prices yet by 50 centavos a liter. AP



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An AYALA South Community

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

PROPERTY

100 houses to be built in each of 1,712 towns

By Tessa R. Salazar

GOVERNMENT employees of 1,712 municipalities who don't own their own houses will soon have their prayers answered.

That is, if the project, lengthily named "Isang Daang Pabahay Bawat Munisipyo, Siyudad, Probinsiya at Pribadong Sector (100 houses for each municipality, city, province and private sector)," pushes through.

The target number of houses to be constructed for a period of one year, thus, stands at 170,000.

Each house would cost roughly from P150,000 to P300,000 with floor areas ranging from 25 sq. m. to 40 sq. m. The lot area would be 100 sq. m. to 150 sq. m.

Demetrio L. Posadas, immediate past president and director of the project convenor Chamber of Real Estate Builders Developers Association (Creba) Social Housing Foundation, said the houses would offer amortization packages affordable to a government employee.

100 HOUSES/ B2-2

The exteriors of the homes at Courtyards of Portofino are in bright sun-drenched colors using various textures similar to courtyard homes in Italy.

Imagine being with a loved one under the canopy of a clear, starry moonlit night. The evening is cool. The air is crisp. The wind blows softly, gently. It is idyllic, romantic...right out of the pages of a novel.

Brittany's Courtyards of Portofino: A Romantic Interlude

Now think about enjoying this moment, the romance of the outdoors, right inside your home.

This is the experience enjoyed at Courtyards of Portofino. A courtyard inside the homes provides a private, romantic nook from which to enjoy a cool starry night or a warm sunny day.

The courtyard: in tune with classic Italian design

The philosopher Socrates describes the courtyard with a lyrical quality, calling it a section of the home that is in harmony with the sun and moon and the entire home.

An Italian architectural masterwork, the courtyard can be likened to a musical masterpiece: the romantic interlude that bridges the main composition that is your home.

Presently four courtyard homes are available: Rembrandt (260 sq. m. floor area), Raphael (249 sq. m. floor area), Cézanne (193 sq. m. floor area) and Monet (233 sq. m. floor area).

A masterpiece of Italian architecture

The homes at Courtyards of Portofino take design cues from Italy's courtyard homes.

Colors are sun-drenched. Bright yellows. Subdued reds. Light woods. Stone cladding adds texture and contrast. Archways and cupolas are distinctively old world Italy.

The master craftsmen

A team of the country's top craftsmen in property development worked together with Brittany to create the quaint magnificence of the Courtyards of Portofino.

The interiors were meticulously researched and crafted by Cynthia and Ivy Almario of Atelier Almario, so the homes are built for comfort, space and Italian style.

The architecture, designed in collaboration with Recio + Casas, is created with an eye towards emulating the magnificence of homes in Italy.

The landscaping, flourishing with greenery and accented by ornate Italian fountains, benches and charming cobblestone paths, is by Benny Velasco of FN Velasco and Jojo Lazaro of Ground Works.

From design to execution, Brittany maintains a guiding hand and a keen eye as it realizes its vision for a unique lifescape with the concept of courtyards within a courtyard.

Put together, the verdant landscape, the classic courtyard homes, and the elegant interiors create a scenic setting, where nature and man-made homes become an Italian orchestration punctuated by the romantic interlude of the courtyard.

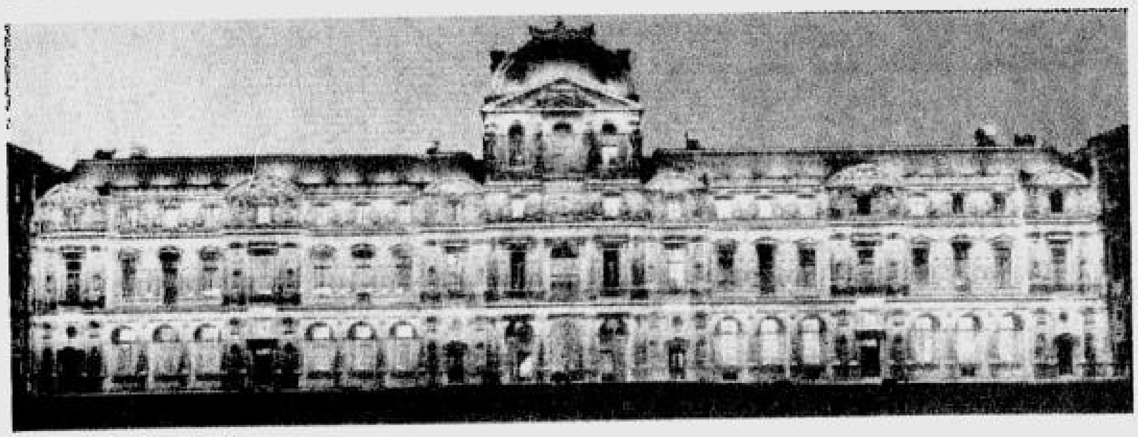
Inside, the courtyard homes are designed with elegant Italian architectural details, including large windows, light-colored walls, wood floors and rounded corners.

The courtyard: a private, romantic nook, a high note in the home's design.

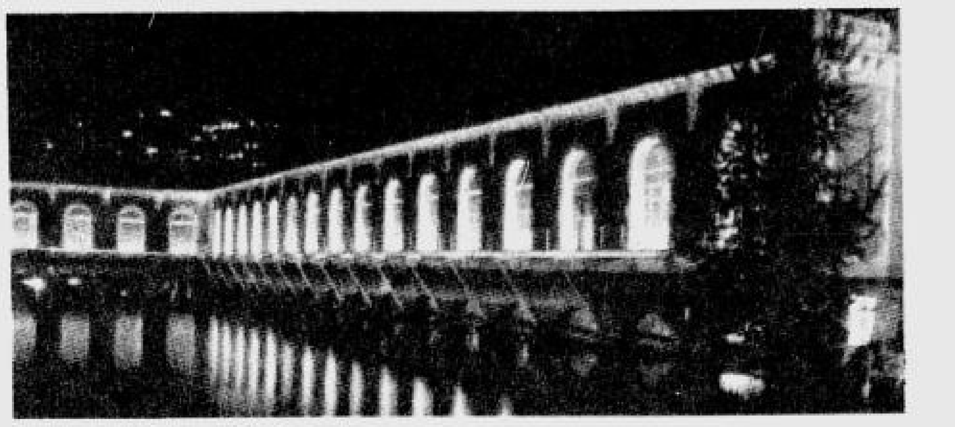
Socrates describes the courtyard with a lyrical quality, calling it a section of the home that is in harmony with the sun and moon and the entire home

Feel the romance of the Courtyards of Portofino. Get a Property Preview. Call 850 2868 or 850 6986. Click www.brittany.com.ph.

Rembrandt, the largest of the model homes, features a distinctively Italian cupola and arches.

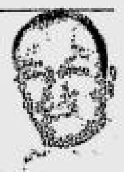


LOUVRE, Paris, at dusk



BATIMENT des Forces Motrices, Geneva

Architectural lighting



LIVING ARCHITECTURE

Marcos de Guzman Jr.

IN MY practice, I am sometimes asked to improve or refurbish existing structures. Given a good quality and generally proportionate building, one of the main cosmetic approaches would be its lighting. The "wow" factor in architecture is often experienced at night. In our country, we are only beginning to appreciate but have not fully explored this feature.

In Europe, Paris for example, the grandness of their buildings is highlighted at night. Although these buildings are also beautiful during the day, they look even more stunning at night because of proper well-studied lighting. Their more popular city tour is the nightly river cruise where tourists can experience the grandeur of Paris while appreciating the beauty of the well-lit buildings, some of which are even adorned with gold leaf trim and domes that glitter and glow.

Artistically illuminated

Their bridges, buildings, and towers are artistically illuminated and showcased. The elegance of these Parisian sights is to die for. The Eiffel Tower alone has been installed with a wide variety of lighting effects, from computerized color change, to flashing bulbs that look like fireworks. It gives a new appearance that makes the tower even more interesting.

Our Asian neighbors, particularly Malaysia and Singapore, have also extensively applied architectural lighting in its cities. Some of their buildings are now lit as dramatically as those in Europe.

Let's admit it… not the whole of Manila is picturesque. But we do have buildings and architectural elements that have their own charm and that are worth showcasing. At night, we can mask the unsightly aspects and focus those we would like to appreciate. This is one good way to draw the tourist eye.

Trend in lighting

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, who seems to have a background in architecture, has already started the trend in lighting. Hopefully, other city mayors will follow. Our old churches, landmarks and heritage sites are things we should be proud of. If only they could be properly lit at night, more people would appreciate their beauty. It can raise the perception of having a well-kept metropolis.

At times, the only thing necessary to refurbish structures would be the concealment of exposed wiring, the removal of old signs and posters, or the fixing of broken window panes. Add a few lights, dim a few others, and there's … Magic.

Some people think that the cost of this endeavor would be prohibitive. It probably used to be. But now, there are so many affordable lighting systems that are cost-efficient, energy-savers. For example, a 75-watt metal halide lamp produces illumination equivalent to that of a 1,000-watt incandescent lamp. It also lasts much longer than the old style lamps.

Weatherproof

Exterior lighting fixtures are weatherproof, which makes it ideal for our wet climate. Lighting fixtures come in an endless range of shapes and sizes from halogens to high-pressure sodium. Fiber optics also holds an advantage and is already available locally. These lamps can be controlled by computerized switches and dimmers for a more dramatic effect and to serve a variety of purposes.

The procedures may sound complicated… and they are. Which is why, it is now a must to consult a lighting design specialist to properly study the system and attain the desired results at the lowest possible cost, as well as to ensure energy efficiency and safety.

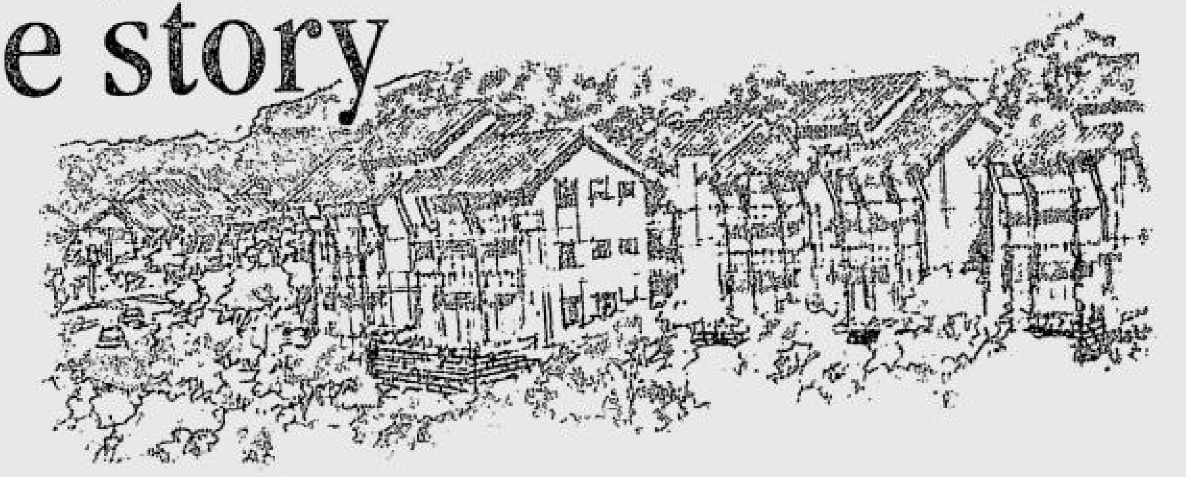
Unfortunately, in Metro Manila, the best-lit structures are still the billboards. There seems to be no letup to the employment of these hazardous structures, placed within densely populated areas. (This, despite the fact that we are in a typhoon region.) What a pity that our heritage sites are not as well valued!

Private hospitals are obliged to have a number of charity wards for every 100 rooms. Developers must provide a proportionate number of socialized housing for every development they undertake. I hope advertisers can likewise do their share by lighting up monuments and heritage sites for the benefit of everyone (read: potential customers).

It is never too much to do our share in beautifying our existing structures. The cost and effort are surmountable. The benefits are immeasurable.

AMARA EN TERRAZAS APARTMENTS

Another chapter in Punta Fuego lifestyle story



PERSPECTIVE of the Amara en Terrazas as seen from the Terrazas Beach

THE NAME Punta Fuego calls to mind visions of luxurious seaside mansions, magnificent infinity pools and pristine beaches, Bali-style cabanas and the vibrant Mediterranean energy. The two Punta Fuego communities, Peninsula and Terrazas, are the crème de la crème of residential resorts, being the very first and the most prestigious.

Yet a new page in the Punta Fuego lifestyle story unfolds with the planned Amara en Terrazas Luxury Oceanfront Apartments, set to bring a new excitement and inspire a craving for a totally different style in resort living.

Another industry first

Another industry first from Landco Pacific, the Amara is a highly exclusive condominium apartment cluster set atop Terrazas de Punta Fuego's most prime spot. Located high above the Terrazas Beach Club, its commanding vantage point affords unobstructed views of the South China Sea and Terrazas Beach.

The Amara idea was inspired by what maverick developer Landco observed as an unmet need for built-up residential units intended for those who prefer the ready-to-use and lock-up convenience as well as ease of maintenance of a condominium property to the prospect of building their own houses from scratch. Professional property management services will be on-hand to assist owners in managing and maintaining their apartments.

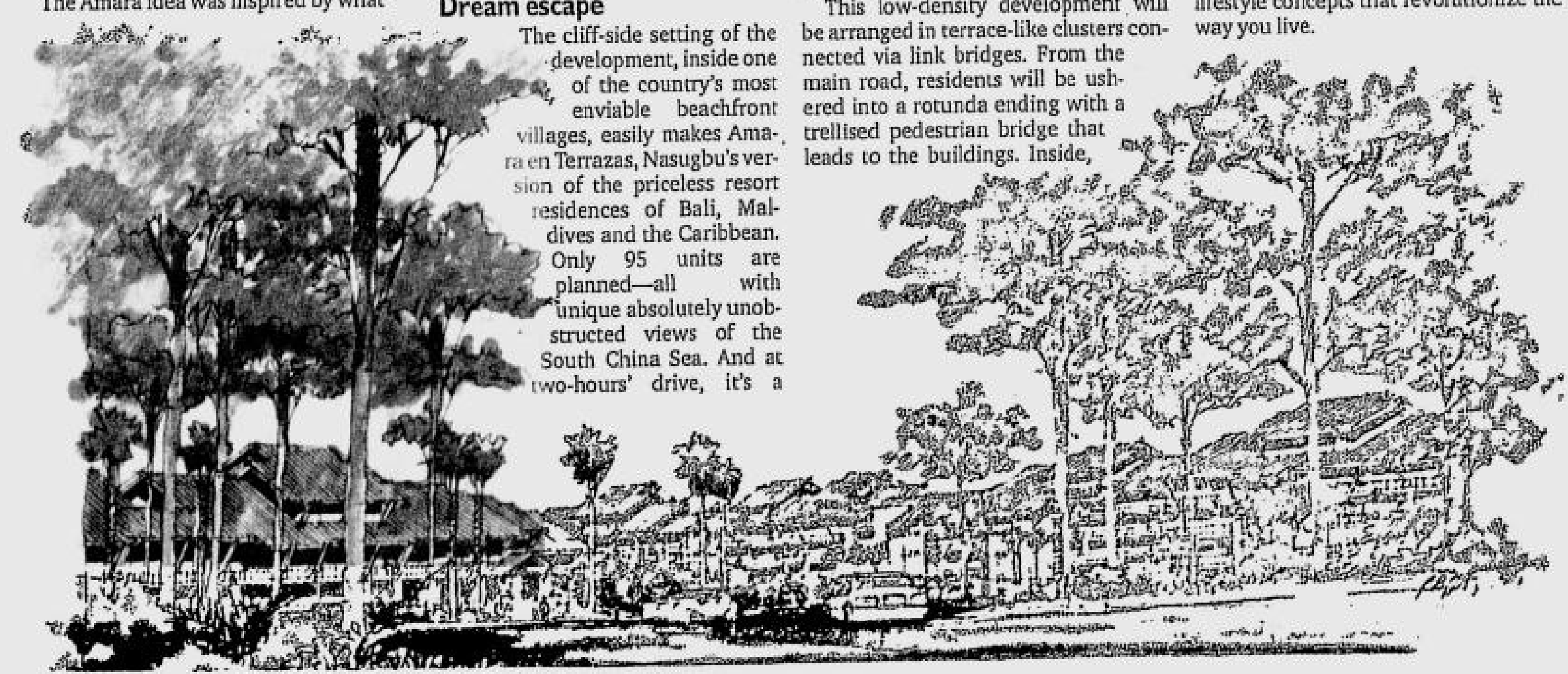
Dream escape

The cliff-side setting of the development, inside one of the country's most enviable beachfront villages, easily makes Amara en Terrazas, Nasugbu's version of the priceless resort residences of Bali, Maldives and the Caribbean. Only 95 units are planned—all with unique absolutely unobstructed views of the South China Sea. And at two-hours' drive, it's a piece of paradise that one can return to any time the yearning for escape surfaces.

The Amara masterplan is a study in fusion. The architecture beautifully blends natural and built environments—a concrete living space tucked into a mountain ridge and surrounded by pockets of forest reserve. The design theme is an exquisite marriage of Eastern and Western elements, giving a taste of both the organic and refined.

This low-density development will be arranged in terrace-like clusters connected via link bridges. From the main road, residents will be ushered into a rotunda ending with a trellised pedestrian bridge that leads to the buildings. Inside, open areas will be enhanced by lush tropical landscaping and water features.

Landco Pacific Corp. is a multiproduct developer of premium residential resorts, leisure farms, first home residential developments, shopping centers and central business districts (CBDs) and memorial parks. Now celebrating its 15th year, the company continues to take lifestyles to the next level by developing innovative and original lifestyle concepts that revolutionize the way you live.



THE AMARA en Terrazas consists of 95 units only, with 95 unique views.

CPAC Monier strengthens lead in concrete roof tile market

CPAC Monier Philippines Inc. (CMPI), manufacturer of CPAC Monier concrete roof tiles, reported that it has further strengthened its lead in the roof tile segment with a commanding 64 percent market share in 2004 on the back of higher sales volumes as the local construction sector continues to improve.

CMPI marketing and sales manager Arnel Nacor said the company posted a 42 percent increase in sales volume in 2004 compared to the previous year, while net sales was also higher by 49 percent year on year.

Solid proof

Nacor said the increase in market share from a little over 52 percent in 2003 to 64 percent in 2004 is a solid proof that local developers, designers and homeowners now consider CPAC Monier roof tiles as the best alternative to traditional roofing materials owing to its many superior features.

Nacor likewise attributed the continuing success of CPAC Monier roof tiles to the company's improved distribution channels and the unqualified support of their dealers nationwide.

Nacor noted that while in the past their customers were mostly big developers who were the first to discover the advantages of CPAC Monier roof tiles, today more and more homeowners are the ones specifying the use of CPAC Monier to their architects.

Cost effective

The CMPI official said the improving construction sector in the country means that the company will continue to perform well this year as it penetrates more markets while increasing production output.

Aside from providing superior heat insulation during the summer months and better insulation from noise when it rains, CPAC Monier concrete roof tiles also require little or no maintenance costs at all, thus proving to be more cost-effective in the long term.

CMPI is a joint-venture company between two world leaders in the construction industry—Lafarge of France and the Siam Cement Group of Thailand. It manufactures millions of concrete roof tiles annually in its state of the art production plant in Sto. Tomas, Batangas.

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100 houses to be built in each of 1,712 towns

From page B2-1

The Creba Social Housing Foundation has teamed up with local government units, Pag-Ibig Fund and a housing developer on the target areas.

6-percent interest

Posadas estimated that a P150,000 loan with an interest charge of six percent would require an employee to pay just P1,000 monthly. A loan of P225,000 on a 9-percent interest would require a monthly amortization of P2,000. A P300,000 loan would entail monthly payments of P3,000. These amortizations would last 25 years.

The lots on which the houses would be built were mostly donations from private sector, or given at cost by the municipality or the city.

"The project teaches each municipality, province and city to construct at least 100 houses for a total of 170,000 houses on an annual basis. This is doable," said Posadas.

Over 50 municipalities and cities have already signed-up, and over 400 municipality and city representatives have already attended seminars. A regional conference in Davao has also been conducted.

Fast-tracking mass housing

The Creba Social Housing Foundation conducts workshops, technical and financial seminars for interested municipalities, cities and provinces.

"The Social Housing Foundation aims to help the government fast-track socialized housing and come out with technical studies and housing projects in partner with a developer from a particular municipality," Posadas explained.

Only accredited developers are tapped to build houses in the area. Each developer is encouraged to use as many technologies, such as precast and steel frames, into the system as necessary.

The Pag-Ibig Fund developmental and housing loan ensures easy facilitation of the construction and development of the project.

Corruption avoided

"The project is not left to the hands of local officials, but they are on top of the project. Since the developer works with the government in this project, corruption and unnecessary expenses are avoided," said Posadas.

The prices of houses go down because the land is either donated or owned by municipalities to be given at cost to the project.

The first launch of the project is on June 23 at the municipality of Pola, Mindoro. The culminating activity is a conference and a housing expo on World Trade Center from July 27 to 30 where over 1,000 delegates from municipalities all over the Philippines will attend.

How to take care of wood

PLAIN, textured, cut, processed or washed up on banks as drift, wood offers man numerous uses—from simple carpentry to elaborate accent and design pieces.

Here are some helpful tips on how to take care of wood from Ortigas Home Depot.

• For a homeowner, whether starting to put up his home or improving what he has built, wood is one element he can't do without. He needs it for beams, floors, ceilings, walls, scaffoldings, posts, doors, stairs, panes and eaves as well as in almost every nook and cranny of his home. The list goes on and on. Wood and/or wooden parts can strengthen and brighten a house—depending on how it was made use of.

Border

• A decorative border frames the room and defines its shape. It can be a lavish assembly of inlaid wood or a simple contrasting of band wood. The space inside the border is treated the same as a regular strip-floor installation except that the end joints that meet the borders of doors have to be cut to fit them precisely. To achieve this, install the wood border first, then the perimeter area, and finally the main body of the floor. Predrilling for square nails will help make sure the board stays intact as you nail it home.

• Wooden strip flooring comes in various varieties. All will last the life of your house and will withstand sanding and refinishing several times. You can purchase strip flooring in a variety of widths, sold in bundles of precise measurements.

Baseboards

• A sharp saw and an equally sharp mind are what you need in installing baseboards. There are two basic types to choose from: the wooden variety and the ones made from medium density fiberboard or MDF. Both can come either raw or prefinished. Prefinished ones cut installation time in half but doesn't allow options for stain and gloss. If you have a design in mind, go with unfinished variety.

• When a floor meets a doorway, the edge is usually covered by a threshold. It not only provides a graceful edge to the floor, it often serves as a transition to other flooring such as carpets, vinyl, ceramics or hardwood. They're traditionally made of wood, although some are made of material similar to that in solid-surface countertops. Either can be worked with simple woodworking tools. Finish the threshold with the same stain or color you used on the door and frame. It's easier and cleaner to finish the threshold before you install it.

The terms softwood and hardwood refer to the botanical origins of wood and not to their density or physical hardness.

Wood continues to exchange moisture with the air, shrinking and expanding in response to changes in humidity. And in a tropical climate like the Philippines, this fluctuation can wreck havoc on your hardwoods. But, like your skin, a solid hardwood's natural response to extremely dry air is to lose moisture and shrink a bit. This will, however, correct itself as the reflective humidity arises and the wood absorbs enough moisture to expand slightly. So, for a longer life on your wooden fixtures, avoid placing them directly in front of fireplaces and/or air-conditioning units. Avoid exposing hardwood floors and furniture to continuous direct sunlight by drawing the draperies occasionally.

From tiny borders, mid-sized panels to huge planks, wood covers an expansive spectrum in answering eclectic needs. The gamut is endless. Thus, it is easy to appreciate wood for its practical and decorative purposes.

Price guarantee

At Ortigas Home Depot, there is a wide array of wood and simulated wood products from Deltawood, DTS Lumber, Cebu Interwood, Matimco, Montova, Napa, Pateco and Phela Wood.

Ortigas Home Depot is located at 1 Doña Julia Vargas Ave., Barangay Ugong, Pasig City. Open every day from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., its price guarantee makes it sure that products that you buy in the Home Builder's Superstore is the lowest. If you find the same brand of items priced lower from any other retailer, Ortigas Home Depot will match the price and refund the difference.

A home that suits your man, too

INTO SPACE

Pinky Cruz

WOMEN, face it. It's bad enough that you have to share your space with a man who doesn't even know how to organize his things. What's worse is, you may have to consider what he is mad about in your most coveted room, the master's bedroom.

More often than not, discussions on what should be done in a couple's most sacred place becomes so hot that it becomes a combat zone rather than a place of safety for both. This is probably why "Designing for Both Sexes" was ever conceived on television.

I have observed couples who skirt the impending war altogether by allowing one voice to dominate, and so because of domestic territory issue, the woman gets the role of creating the dream home (or room, for that matter), leaving the man to live with florals and silks as bed companions. For others, the man who calls the shots does despotic decisions on all things leaving the wife in the dark wondering "Why did I ever marry the bastard?"

Guidelines

Despair not. This is an exercise of faith. The sooner both realize creating their love nest needs greater effort than creating a baby, the faster the power struggle would wear out. Here are some guidelines for those women out there in a bind:

• We women have a thing for individualized colors while men generally just know what they wanted when they see it. And almost always, men have an association with colors in the sport they watch or ads they love. Think Seinfeld sets, Marlboro Country, Ralph Lauren. Go with neutrals, with focus on a heightened wood tone that sets the monochrome appeal. By all means, stay away from purple, pinks and baby blues. Go for deep yellows, reds and greens to warrant their enthusiasm.

• Man by nature hates frills, at least too much of it. Good fabrics are the ones that have spartan look on them. Choose rich textures and give low priority on complex patterns. Leather is a knockout choice!

• Have room for their big toys. This can be a major cause of separation, so take heed. Big TVs, speakers, weights, computer gadgets ... things we, women love to hide. Have provisions for storage that is easily taken out when in use, planning all wiring beforehand. For a man, TV is a big bear hug. Surround him with things he prefers like a good chaise lounge his size, a sturdy table and a good no nonsense lamp for reading his newspaper.

• Stay away from heavy drapes. Go linear. Horizontal and vertical patterns are somewhat appealing. The issue is a good hardware to operate it and the interesting play of lights the window creates. It doesn't hurt to have a softened look to make the room comfortable since they are human, too.

• Lastly, know your man. Designing your quarters that suits him too is just like getting to know him all over again. Knowing what ticks and what does not is a good great way to awaken your passion together.

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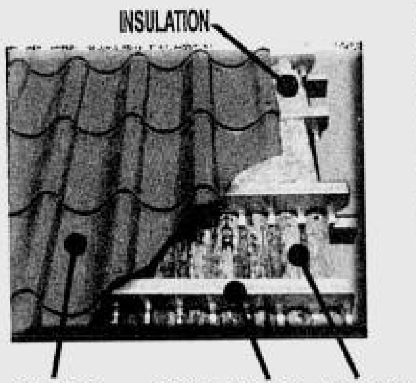

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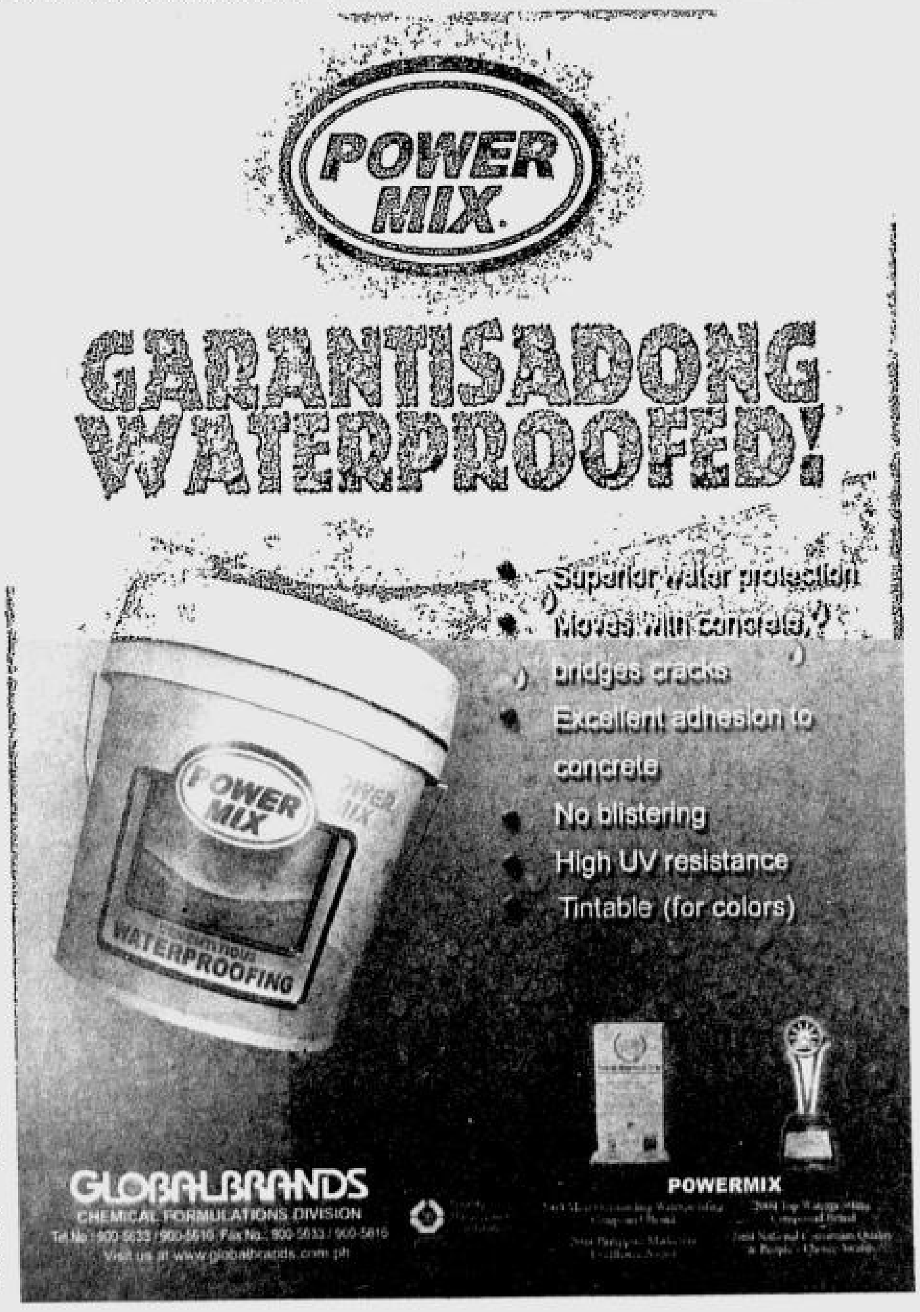

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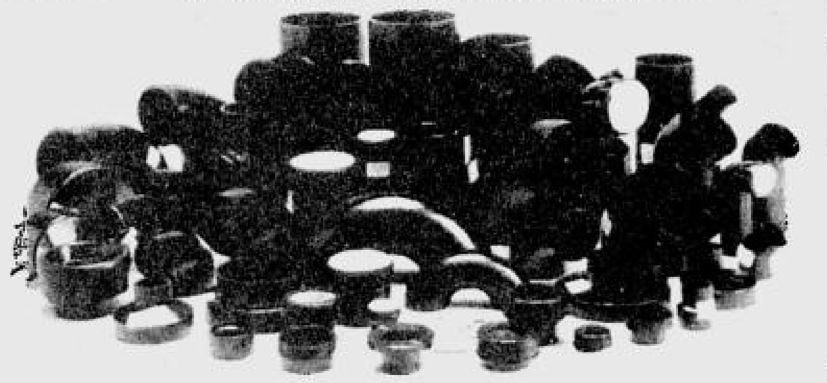

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Experience the Luxe Lifestyle in One Location

Over the past decade, the Filipino's taste in choosing a place to call home has evolved dramatically. He's always looking for the definitive plus that will make the investment worth the buy. Thus, real estate developments had to go beyond the "location, location, location" principle to offering "location, luxury, and lifestyle."

Location addresses a resident's concerns such as proximity to work, the mall, schools, and hospitals. Luxury is the availability of top amenities such as a clubhouse, pools, and sports facilities. A natural environment and prime destinations such as restaurant rows, plush hotels, and fashion shops further define a family's lifestyle.

One development that combines all three elements into the ideal address is the 250-hectare South Forbes Golf City. Conceptualized by leading developer Cathay Land and set to rise within the booming Sta. Rosa-Tagaytay growth area, South Forbes is a self-sustaining city that will house prime office buildings and cyberparks. Its proximity to the industrial parks of Sta. Rosa makes it a top investment priority. It is also near Walter Mart and Paseo De Sta. Rosa; top schools such as Ateneo, La Salle, and St. Scholastica's; and health institutions such as Asian Hospital in Alabang.

Families will experience luxury everyday at the South Forbes Mansions, the City's main residential cluster. The Mansions offers generous lot cuts and spacious homes inspired by the laid-back atmosphere of Bali. The resort-type exteriors are matched by the warm, inviting interiors and wide windows.

Consistent with the Asian theme, the Mansions clubhouse offers luxurious resort-type amenities. Tropical landscaping accented by water and rock formations welcomes guests and residents at the clubhouse's main entrance gate. Guests can allow time to pass by leisurely at the lap pool, basketball court, and children's playground.

Family lifestyles will continue to improve and mature at South Forbes. Restaurant rows offering the best of modern cuisines, quaint shops offering fashion accessories and sporting gadgets, and coffee shops serving the finest caffeine concoctions will rise along the City's main commercial avenue. Day and night, neighbors, executives, and students will interact and strengthen community ties at the South Forbes Strip.

For the more discriminating set, a posh hotel will be developed to serve tourists who are out for a weekend of business and pleasure. A convention center will cater to the exhibition space and seminar needs of the numerous multi-national companies in the technoparks. The hotel and convention center will be managed by Astoria Plaza Suites.

The luxurious game of golf is another sport-lifestyle that families will enjoy. Of the City's total land area of 250 hectares, about a third has been earmarked for the South Forbes Golf and Leisure Club. The long distance between holes, combined with the elevation changes, will challenge any avid golfer's skills while providing convenience to new players. Best of all, a Mansions lot purchase comes with a complementary, exclusive membership to the Golf Club.

Truly, South Forbes Golf City is the top choice for discerning couples and retirees who want the best out of life, at a good price. A free trip to the site can be easily arranged at (02) 635-8108 or (02) 636-4647 and log on to www.cathaylandinc

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Bringing genuine sauna experience to RP

By Charles E. Buban

THE FINNS have been observing the national tradition of sauna bathing, even regarding it as a sacred ritual.

THINK "Finland," and the first thing most people would think of is the sauna.

Indeed, there are today an estimated 2 million saunas present in that Nordic country—quite something for a population of just over five million.

A sauna is a specially built insulated room or cabin which is heated to around 80 to 100 degrees Celsius (but can vary from 60 to 110 degrees) by means of rocks preferably heated by wood, but also by electricity and gas.

"This induces relaxation and promotes heavy sweating, which is believed by some to remove 'toxins' from the body. It is also believed that exposure of the skin to this temperature stimulates the production of white blood cells and strengthens the immune system," explains Hannu Virtanen, managing director of Finlevi Sauna and Steam.

Sacred

But for most Finns the sauna, according to Virtanen, is not only a place to relax and get cleaned, but it has also a character of certain sacredness.

"To the Finns, sauna bathing is a lot more than just sweating—it comes close to being a sacred ritual, which cleanses and refreshes both body and soul," he reveals.

Virtanen adds that Finnish sauna has been influenced by both the Eastern and Western bath cultures but has also developed some genuinely national features.

"This tradition of the sauna is being carried on unbroken for about 2,000 years, and is deeply rooted in the nation's way of life. As a result, sauna bathing has become part of the Finnish identity," he explains.

Since 2000

Since 2000 Virtanen's company has been responsible in supplying and installing genuine Finnish saunas, steam rooms and spas to various institutions (hotels, fitness centers and health clubs) around the country.

"This company believes that although the sauna is considered an age-old Finnish feature, it should not be a private property of the Finns," says Virtanen who reported that a growing number of Filipino homes are also installing their company's factory prefabricated or custom-designed product lines.

He relates that these individual customers wanted to enjoy sauna whenever they like and in the privacy of their homes.

Part of most homes

Says Virtanen: "In Finland, as well as other countries, saunas are part of most homes and vacation houses because sauna is about relaxation, a place where family and friends can have a good time. We want the Filipinos to experience this, too."

And for Virtanen, there is no other way to enjoy the experience but being inside a Finnish-made sauna.

"For example, the Harvia products that we have brought here, have always possessed a characteristic of high quality, reliability and style. No wonder, it is the world's leading manufacturer of sauna heaters and the market leader in the Finnish sauna heater sector," reveals Virtanen.

VIRTANEN wants the sauna to become part of the country's urban lifestyle.

Another brand that Finlevi Sauna and Steam have brought here is Sawo, one of the world's largest electric sauna heater manufacturer.

As Virtanen attests, "As our clients have experienced, there is a huge difference in going for the best (Finnish) brands as they have provided them with the highest quality and most relaxing sauna, steam room, or spa experience."

Useful tips while inside a sauna

SAUNA bathing is something, which one can do his or her own way.

As Virtanen explains, there are no exact rules how you should do sauna bathing as long as you feel comfortable in the sauna.

"However, there are recommended procedures, which one can try, if one doesn't have any previous experience in sauna bathing.

- In the sauna nakedness is natural. Leave clothes in the dressing room but one should have a clean set of clothes to wear after the sauna.
- It is a good idea to begin with a wash or shower; a seat towel for the hot room is also useful.
- Air humidity is regulated by ladling small doses of water on to the stove stones. Warming up and cooling off can be repeated as many times as possible.
- Leave the sauna room when feeling hot enough. Cool off by taking a shower or a swim or just by sitting in room temperature or outside. Have a drink if you feel thirsty, but avoid alcohol in the sauna.
- Sauna bathing in moderation suits everyone. Those with health problems should nevertheless consult a doctor before trying it.

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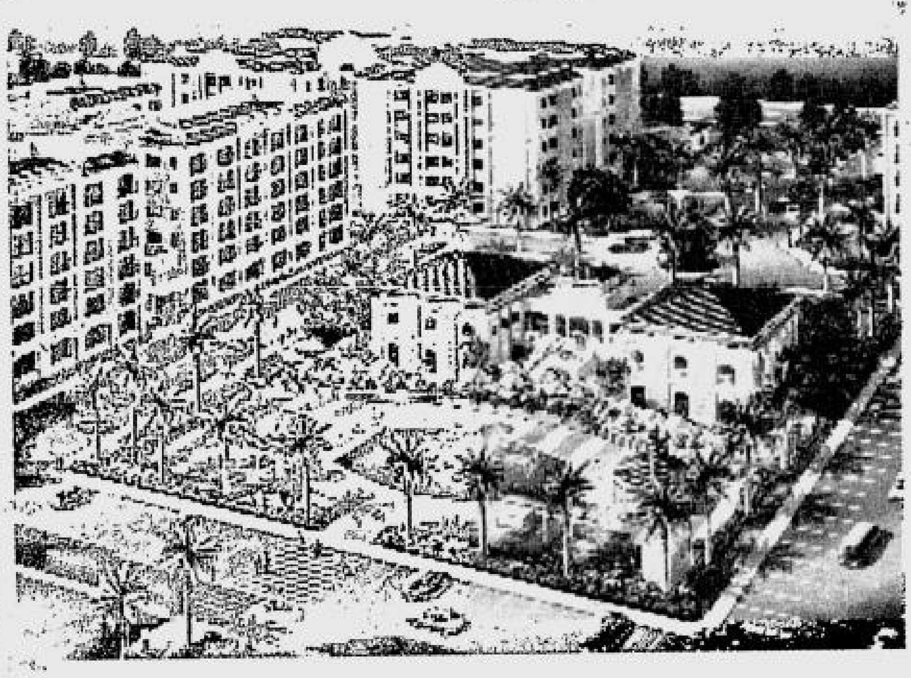

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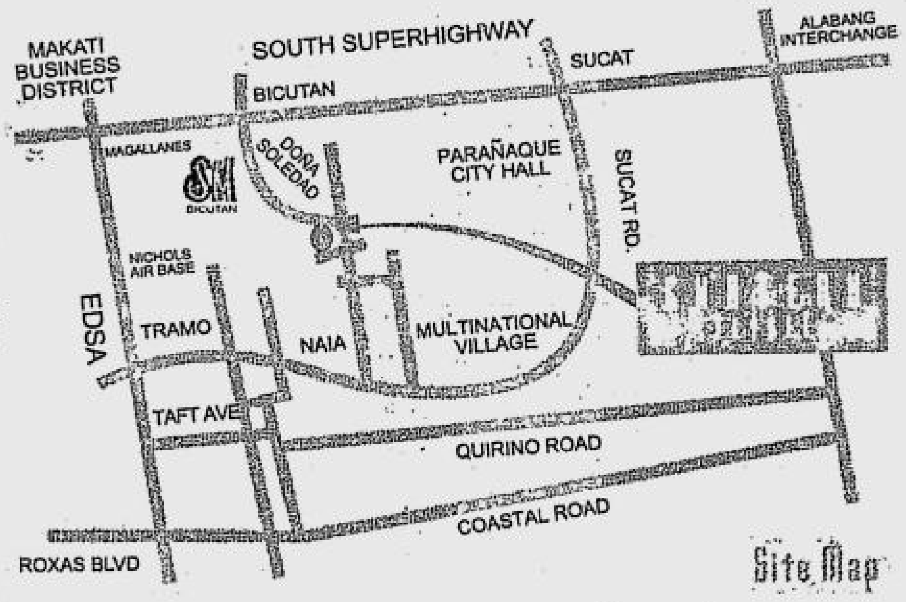

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Where courtyards, cupolas enjoy a special status

BRITTANY Corp. develops a subdivision that adapts Italian architecture to the Metro south lifestyle.

Responding to the need of more open living spaces in an overcrowded lifestyle, the heightened awareness of the environment and the desire to feel part of nature wherever possible, Brittany has developed Portofino properties in Metro South that draw inspiration from Mediterranean homes. The latest subdivision off Alabang is the Courtyards of Portofino. The homes reflect Italian architecture and bring to the fore transition spaces between the inside and the outside that addresses all the needs.

Overall concept

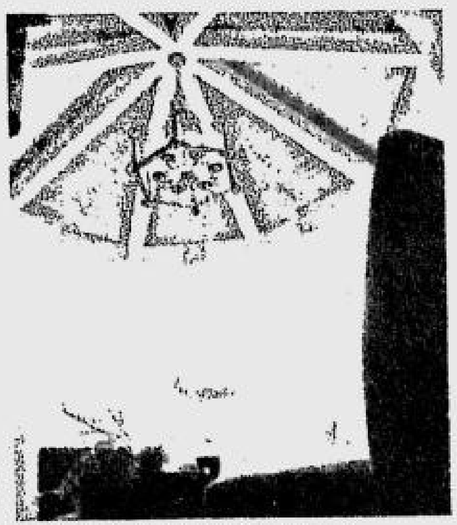
"The Courtyards of Portofino as the overall concept of the development aims to emphasize the beauty of having an inner court inside the confines of a single lot," says architect Carmelo Casas of Recio +Casas, design consultants of Brittany for the Courtyards of Portofino. He defines the courtyard as "an enclosed yard adjoining a building." It is similar to a patio or a lanai but it is thrust into a bigger opening or court to connect primary spaces such as the dining and living areas. The courtyard then becomes a primary element of the dwelling.

Courtyards of Portofino is composed of 96 lots. Clients buy the lot and have a choice to design their homes based on four model units, named after such masters as Rembrandt, Raphael, Monet and Cezanne. They have to abide by certain rules such as using Mediterranean colors, no high fences, easements on the sides and construction materials should not be substandard.

The Raphael unit's lot size is 306 square meters with a floor area of 249 sq m. Among all the model units, Raphael's courtyard is on the side unlike the Rembrandt model which is at the center of the home.

Design's main feature

Casas explains, "In the Raphael, the courtyard as the main feature of the design recreates an atmosphere that is open and takes full advantage of natural light and ventilation. Also, intentionally unbounded on one side, the courtyard allows full access to and a splendid view of the garden. Thus, the concept of the side courtyard is realized."


THE INTRICATELY detailed ceiling showcasing the architecture allow natural light to spill into the home.

INTENTIONALLY unbounded on one side, the courtyard allows full access to and a splendid view of the garden. At left, it is a relaxing space for receiving guests or simply for soaking up the sunshine and fresh air.

Although the design of the Rembrandt and the Raphael is Italian country style-tiled roofs, stone facing, arched windows, and stucco paint finish, one of its quirky features is a tower, "a domical projection on the roof," describes Casas. It is often referred to as a "cupola." Casas points out that its purpose is also to provide lighting and ventilation for the family area. "It also enhances the elevation of the structure because it allows for the interplay of heights and shapes, making the building more interesting or exciting."

"What sets apart the Raphael design is the use of cultured stone cladding for the cupola," says Casas. Because of its architectural interest, the tower becomes a special sitting area for entertainment. It also serves as a suitable answer for freeing up the living room from potentially space-stealing and conspicuous equipment and appliances. There are more cabinets and niches for storage display. The mixture of direct, natural and accent lighting makes it cozy. The pitched ceiling makes the area lighter.

Natural lighting

"Each habitable space is provided with a window or windows. Special rooms are further enhanced with natural lighting through the cupola, and more especially through the courtyard providing a wider expanse of outdoor light and views. Where sunshine is most welcome, rooms and spaces are naturally well lit at daytime. The courtyard catches the morning sun to brighten areas where the family can get together," says Casas.

LOUNGE at the loft and bask in the natural warmth and light of golden sunshine.

According to Brittany Corp., its high-end market composed of CEOs, professionals and balikbayans have snapped up many of the houses and lots of Courtyards of Portofino. They have found the houses are well designed in traffic flow, provide right storage and make use of quality but low-maintenance materials.

"We try to share to our homeowners a rich, inviting Mediterranean lifestyle that is brilliantly captured in the Raphael. The splendid courtyards and cupolas, the natural light that flows in and out of the house, the spacious interiors and the beautiful outdoors are all part of the Raphael experience," says Jing Serrano, president of Brittany Corp.

The Courtyards of Portofino is on the Las Piñas-Muntinlupa-Laguna-Cavite link road. Property previews may be arranged at 850-6986, 850-2868, 850-3084.

Sta. Elena: homes that breathe life

FINDING a sense of the elemental and natural in the big city is next to impossible. But often enough when we do find ourselves at nature's feet, the experience is spoiled because of our propensity for building homes that shut nature out than welcome it in.

Enter the exquisitely landscaped paths to Sta. Elena Sierra Madre and Banahaw Villages, and you'll get a feel of the beautiful coexistence of the natural and the modern.

Tucked quietly away in a rainforest area of Sta. Rosa, Laguna, Sta. Elena communities boast of scenic surroundings, lush environment and wonderfully clean air. The life is fresh and natural, through and through. And every experience of nature here remains pure and unadulterated, even when you're locked away inside the confines of your Sta. Elena home.

Design features

The model home comes fitted with all the accoutrements of a modern household used to the luxuries and creature comforts of city life. But more important, its design features reflect an intent to harmonize with the beauty and tranquility of its setting.

Homes in Sta. Elena Village Banahaw have windows that are made to be wide, tall and open to allow unobstructed views of the backyard—either the virgin forestlands or the winning greens and fairways of the Sta. Elena Golf Club.

The natural outside is felt succinctly, and life here revolves around the pleasures and opportunities offered by the lush environment.

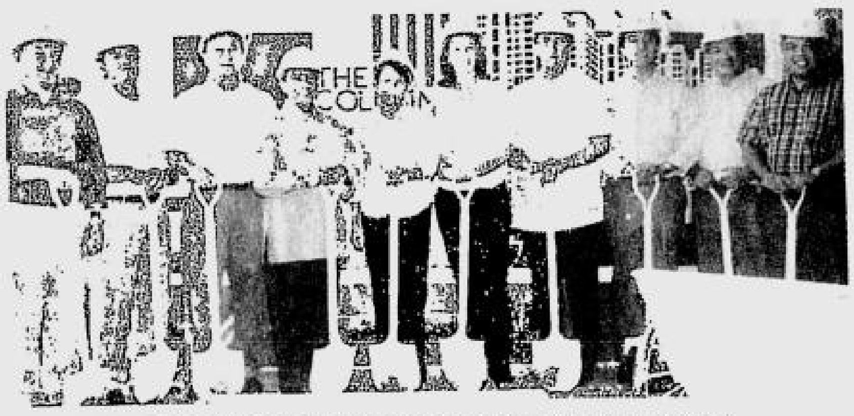
Back alley concept

At Sta. Elena Village Sierra Madre too, you'll be delighted with the back alley concept and how it puts you ever closer to nature. The homes' façades are cleared of garages and utilitarian functions, while the main road is stripped off of the bustle and unceasing commotion. Instead, beautiful white porches welcome the homes' habitués. The feel is truly rustic and suburban, and families can only look forward to peaceful days and pretty vistas.

All these little touches and nuances create an impression of a handcrafted life, in touch with nature and the elements of life, without abandoning the comforts and pleasures of a modern home. It's the life you can only picture at Sta. Elena.

For site visits and inquiries, please call Sta. Elena Properties at 887-2390 or 0920-9118105 or e-mail sales@staelena.com.ph. You may also visit www.staelena.com.ph.

SUNLIGHT fills every room of Sta. Elena homes



TOPPING-OFF RITES FOR THE COLUMNS, AYALA AVENUE

Officials and consultants of Community Innovations Inc., an Ayala company, don hard hats with Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay at the topping-off ceremonies of The Columns Tower 2, Ayala Avenue. From left are Efren L. Tan, CII head of sales; Dan Abando, CII head of technical services; Raul Irlanda, VP of Ayala Land Inc. and president of Ayala Property Management Corp.;. Mayor Binay, Angela de Villa Lacson, CII president and SVP of Ayala Land; Grace Sta. Ana, CII project development manager; Jonathan Umali, CII head of project development; Jojo Tolentino, president of RMJM; Joseph Mendoza, EVP of Makati Development Corp.; and Larry Yadao, project manager of Makati Development Corp.

How to invest correctly in real estate

A SERIES of lectures on Investing in Real Estate will be conducted by the Urban Institute of Real Estate at 1:30 to 6:00 p.m. from July 4 to 15 at the Maximo Function Room, Max's Restaurant, Level 2, Gateway Mall, Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City.

Invited to attend these seminars are real estate investors, developers, professionals and property owners.

This lecture series would initiate participants to the ABCs of real estate investing and avoid costly mistakes that were usually suffered by inexperienced investors, thus guiding them to a pleasant and successful real estate business.

The topics, which may be attended separately and are all stand alone, are as follows: July 4—Investing in Real Estate: Opportunities, Techniques and What are Needed to Learn before Investing; July 5—Property Development and HLURB Rules and Regulations; July 6—Real Estate Finance and Investment Analysis; July 7—Joint Ventures and Syndications for Real Estate Projects; July 8—Property Management and Real Estate Appraisal; July 11—How to Start and Manage a Successful Real Estate Brokerage Company; July 12—Taxation Aspects of Real Estate Transactions and Real Property Assessment; July 13—Legal Aspect of Sale, Mortgage and Lease with Contract Documentation and Registration; July 14—Making Big Money in Distressed Properties; July 15—Mathematics of Real Estate Investment

This lecture series is accredited by the DTI for CEP compliance and will have as lecturer lawyer Dennis Tablizo, noted resource speaker on land laws, and engineer Enrico Cruz, who has more than 35 years in real estate, engineering, construction, management and education. Cruz is also a licensed real estate consultant and 1st and 8th placer in the real estate appraiser's and broker's board examination respectively, he was invested as a "Real Estate Fellow" by the Philippine Council of Real Estate Educators.

For other details or advance registration, call Urban Institute at 681-0928 or 0916-426-9174 or e-mail urbanet@pacific.net.ph.

Trendy wallpaper for the modern home

WALLPAPERS have always been part of homes—giving them warmth and the personality that they deserve. As such, wallpapers—dubbed as an "instant solution" to home refurbishing—have the magical ability to completely change the look of any room.

Anyone can install a wallpaper instantly and unlike paint, wallpaper eliminates the trial and error with the color or pattern that you want. It's also easy to change the wallpaper pattern if you feel it's time to give a room a new look.

Wall Crown Design Center launches two new wallpaper collection designed to put that "trendy" look in any room of your home. Called the Flow and Del Arte wallpaper collection, the design patterns of these two play with vibrant colors and feature bold shapes.

Flow collection

Making up the Flow collection are wallpapers with well inspired and realistically bold colors that feature flower petals in a lively and fashionable display—light linen, rose, lavender and plum, honey, light terra, brown terra, linen beige, natural flax and brown as well as creamy white.

In addition, the collection is highlighted with big borders with silky shine of silver and gold threads formed in a special leaf design. The interplay of a matte textile structure and high-gloss metal effects in the design will make this wallpaper an eye-catcher in any home.

Del Arte collection

Apart from being ideal, designs in the Del Arte collection range from traditional decorative home scenario to country house style. Fit for those with a modern taste in interior design, the wonderful embroidery on delicate materials add a vibrant atmosphere to your home ambience.

The Del Arte collection also features a refined canvas structure either single-colored or striped. It is finished off with a small pattern projecting the look of scattered dried flowers. Three borders with stylized floral designs and miniaturized Zen motifs accentuate this collection.

With the high-contrast colors, the restrained patterns express a highly autonomous design statement. Del Arte's colors are dominated by "spice colors" such as vanilla, cardamom and cinnamon, as well as lavender, ink blue, anis, forest, crème, plum and aubergine.

The catalogues of these two collections are available at SM Our Home stores in Megamall, Southmall, Bacoor and Pampanga, and at all Shell Canvas branches. For inquiries, call Wallcrown Design Center at 725-5088.

Program in building management

A POSTBACCALAUREATE diploma program in "Building Management" is being offered by the University of Makati, College of Technology Management in partnership with the Philippine Association of Building Administrators Inc. (Paba).

Now being offered is Module 3 Batch 4: "Property Marketing and Leasing Management" conducted by Larry F. Dimagiba Jr. It is scheduled from June 15 to July 20, Mondays and Wednesdays, 6-10 p.m. at the College of Technology Management Building, J.P. Rizal Extension, West Rembo, Makati City. For registration/reservation, you may call Dean Purita Sincero at 883-1878 of the University of Makati or Resnelle Pilar of the Paba secretariat at 819-2656.

The other module courses are Module 1: Field of Building and Property Management Industry; Module 2: Engineering Operations and Maintenance; Module 4: Financial Management for Building Managers; Module 5: Legal Aspects of Building and Property Management; and Module 6: Condominium Concepts and Its Management.

War of the giants

AMAZING STRUCTURES

THE GRAND Hyatt Shanghai in Pudong, Shanghai, China, is listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as the highest hotel in the world.

The record holder is located at the third tallest building in the world, the 420-meter tall Jin Mao Tower, occupying its top 35 floors.

Tower of the Arabs

We can't help but take notice though of Dubai's Burj al-Arab which stands at 321 meters and floats on its own man-made island. The hotel, the name of which translates to "Tower of the Arabs" has 202 suites—all equipped with a laptop computer, fax machine and a 42-inch TV screen.

The Burj al-Arab, shaped like a sail blowing in the wind, also has an underwater restaurant with a shark-infested aquarium which guests can reach via submarine, the world's fastest elevators which travel at an eye- (and ear-) popping seven meters per second, and a helipad which doubles as a tennis court on which tennis greats Andre Agassi and Roger Federer had a friendly match early this year.

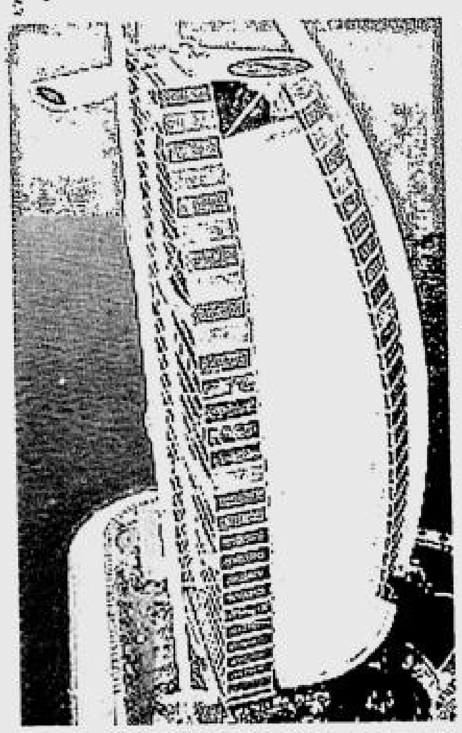
2-story royal suite

The hotel's promoters boast of an interior décor made of more than 9,000 meters of gold leaf, marble, granite and crystal and of a sizable two-story royal suite which has its own elevator and revolving bed. Hotel guests coming from the airport are transported by helicopter or in one of the hotel's Rolls Royce limos. Golf buggies are also used to bring guests from the mainland.

And just how much will it cost to stay in this grandiose and imposing giant? Rates start at about $900 a night with some suites costing up to $15,000 a night. To those who simply want to take a firsthand peek at the Burj al-Arab, make sure you have $55 in your pocket as entrance fee to cross its private bridge. (Sometimes, curiosity will not really kill the cat, it will just leave its pockets empty.)

Dianne M. Villafuerte

THE JIN Mao Tower is where the Grand Hyatt Shanghai is located.



THE BURJ al-Arab

Eurotiles presents new designs for 2005

EUROTILES, the country's premium manufacturer of superior ceramic tiles, unveils its latest collection of high-quality and stylish tiles. The new tile designs are based on art and architecture from all over the world.

Wales simulates the slab of natural stone found in Wales, Great Britain. It comes in a textured semigloss finish and is available in beige, green and blue.

Siena is named after the city in Italy characterized by whitewashed façades of old and new structures. It comes in a high-gloss finish.

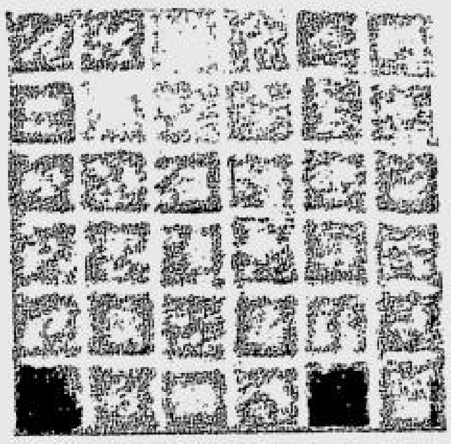
Cadiz is designed as a terracotta mosaic incorporating the elements of earth and stone. It comes in a matte finish.

Madera, as the name implies, is a wood design based on the hardwood Mahogany, ideal for those who love wood but have no time for the upkeep of the real thing. It comes in a high-gloss finish.

Rio represents the wealth of the Amazon River with its distinct marking of flowing waters. It comes in a textured semigloss finish.

These and other new designs are available at Federal Hardware located at 2250 Don Chino Roces Ave., Makati City. For inquiries, you can call 893-1654 or 893-1675.

KRIS Aquino enjoys browsing around Federal Hardware among the stylish designs of Eurotiles



CADIZ gives off a vibe of antiquity. It may also be used to support a rustic theme.

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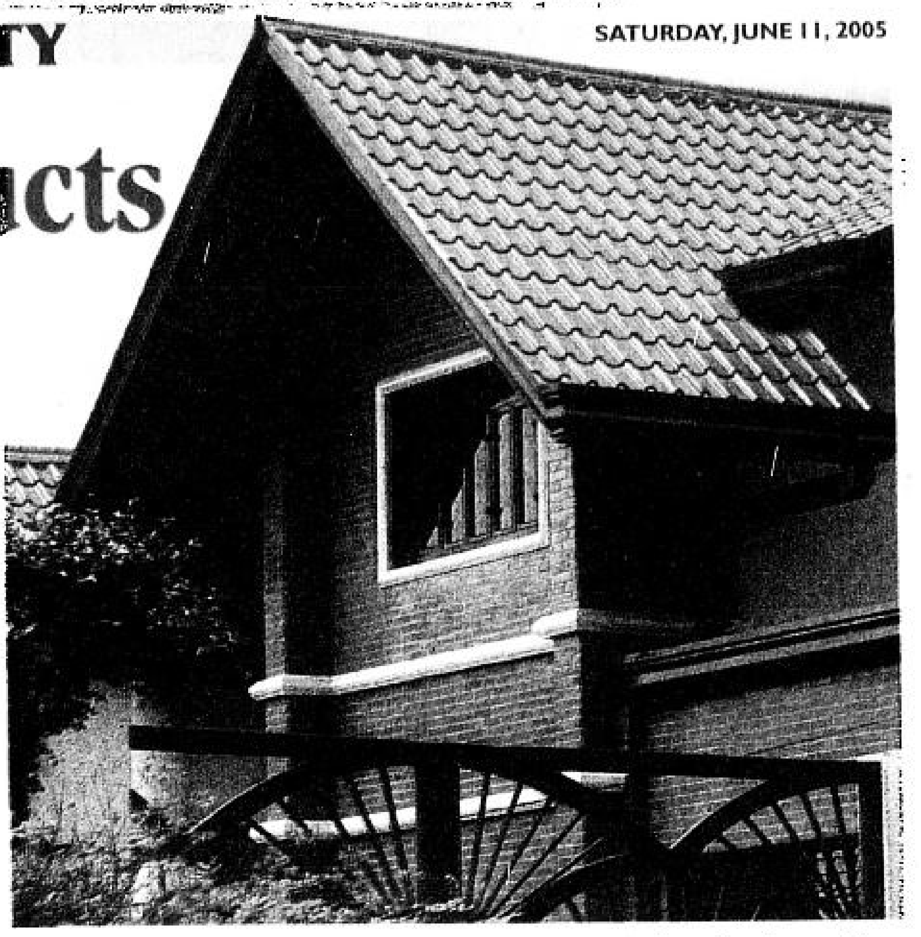


EXCEL Coil roof system like the TileStar Excel mimics the ceramic tile roofing that provides exceptional elegance to homes and buildings.

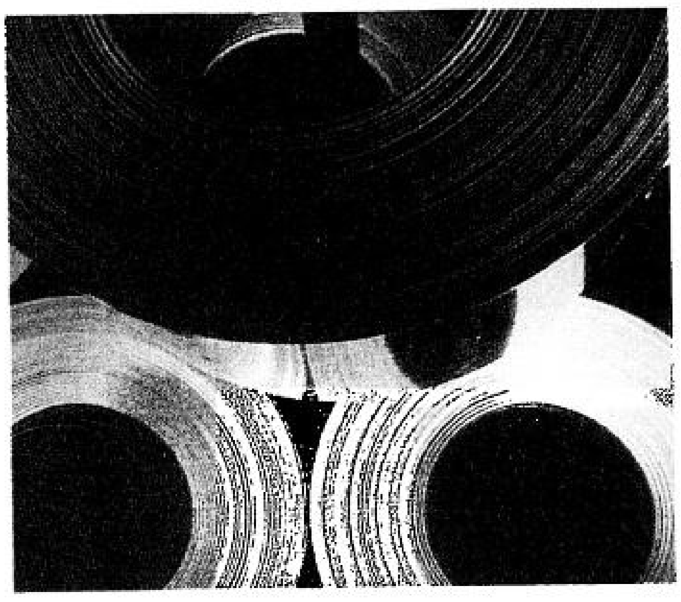
By Charles E. Buban

IT was in 1978 when Excel Coil Coating Corp. started manufacturing galvanized iron (GI) sheets in its main plant located in the Visayas area.

A few years later, the company also started producing prepainted cut sheets which it pioneered before producing long-span, custom-cut, prepainted sheets in the 1990s.

"But with the ever-growing demand for prepainted steel products, this company, in 1997, has decided to invest in a new continuous prepainting line," relates Excel Coil chair Edwin Chua.

It was this move that gave the company considerable advantage over its competitor for having the most advanced steel prepainting line in the country.



FORMED from special structural grade Excel Zincaluminum alloy-coated steel, Excel Coil roofs easily outlast most regular pre-painted GI roofs

One level higher

Last year, Excel Coil saw its distinction rose one lever higher when it partnered with Akzo Nobel, the world's leading coatings company.

Headquartered in the Netherlands, Akzo Nobel is active in three business areas namely, pharmaceuticals, coatings and chemicals and is present in more than 80 countries.

"We saw the market's need for innovative roofing solutions and Akzo Nobel has the technology to provide our roofs the quality that would make it last up to 25 years," says Chua.

Chua is referring to a new state-of the-art paint system, known as polyvinylidene fluoride (PVdF).

Apart from the PVdF, Akzo Nobel has approved Excel Coil to employ the following paint system technologies like High Durable Polyester and Silicon Modified Polyester.

Good resistance

The PVdF provides coating that is good resistance to wear, chipping, cracking, peeling, fading, to high temperature, to corrosion, to weather, and with excellent anti-ultraviolet ray properties, which makes it perfect to roof products of Excel Coil.

Another competitive advantage Chua shares of their products is that the new paint system prevents fine dirt and other particles from bonding to the building surface even in the very hot and humid environments of Southeast Asia.

"As a result, these particles remain 'loose' on the surface and are easily washed away with subsequent rainfall. In ordinary pre-painted roofing products, these particles accumulate to form permanent and unsightly stains on the surface," reveals Chua adding that Excel Coil is the only company in the Philippines capable of employing this technology.

Chua reports that a growing number of residential clients are opting for their type of roof since its more cost effective in the long run.

Building solutions

Chua reveals that aside from roofing solutions (TileStar, RibStar, CorrStar, CladStar, and StarLock), Excel Coil also offers an extensive range of building solutions for walling, fencing, home improvements, structural solutions, rainwater solutions, and house and framing solutions.

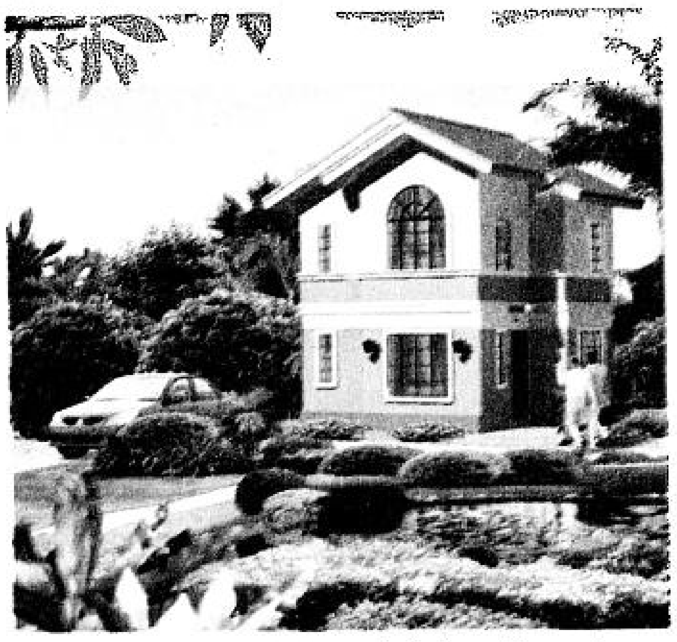
"Our company is constantly in touch with building contractors, architects, distributors and dealers, as well as homeowners. This interaction has provided us valuable knowledge on how we can better assist our clients in their needs," relates Chua.

Excel Coil has branches and roll-forming operations in Cebu, Pampanga and Cavite, apart from its partner dealer and distributor nationwide.

CROWN ASIA

A taste of Italian living

A PLETHORA of space optimized with ingenious design, the Ruby model home is the largest of the five Crown Jewels, fulfilling the unique needs and suiting the cultivated tastes of families in search of Italian-inspired havens.



A CHARMING Italian-inspired haven, the Jade model home at Fortezza suits single adults and young couples wishing to begin a new life.

POSSESSING more historical artistic heritage than any other country, Italy's splendor attracts people interested in culture-rich cities and provinces. Among them are individuals facing the realities of having to painstakingly labor for their family's future—making the prospect of travel a rare if not impossible leisure.

Known for developing unique residential communities for 10 years, Crown Asia's aspiration of fulfilling dreams is driven by keen understanding of each family's particular need, lifestyle and taste. Inspired by the rich Mediterranean culture and distinct architecture, Crown Asia brings home a taste of Italy with its collection of four Italian cities:

- **Fortezza.** The first master-planned community in Cabuyao, Laguna, Fortezza has become a thriving residential estate. Greeting each resident is a view of the fabled Mt. Banahaw and Mt. Makiling complemented by unspoiled nature and rustic, tranquil air. Dubbed as the "Crown of Laguna," Fortezza boasts of Italian-inspired homes with warm Mediterranean hues and designs intended for comfortable living.

Completing this themed village are Roman statues and baroque fountains, while Italian lamps line piazzas and charming pocket gardens.

- **Citta Italia.** Located in the booming industrial city in the south, Citta Italia is a residential enclave of more than 70 hectares found within the heart of Imus, Cavite. The community has grown to 11 phases including Milano, Venezia, Roma, Messina, Verona, Palladio, Lessinia, and Vicenza with Vetta (Italian for "peak") and Brescia as its newest phases.

Within each development are lovely single-detached abodes that combine cosmopolitan living with the elegance of Italy. Each master-planned detail, from the majestic entry gate, Romanesque statues and pillars, to the Fontana uniting the row of homes draws the feel of living in the quaint Italian countryside.

- **Maia Alta.** Surrounded by a spectacular view and rolling terrain agreeing with Antipolo's tranquil ambiance, Maia Alta offers the ideal environment in which to raise families. The community's wide open spaces allow children to frolic, treasuring moments of carefree fun and laughter.

Inspired by the success of Maia Alta's first phase, immediate development of the Hills, Gardens, Orchard and Groves followed. As the newest phase located along the highest point of Antipolo, the Terraces offers an unobstructed view of Binangonan and Laguna de Bay.

- **Residenza.** A flourishing community, Residenza offers a sanctuary amid the bustling urban area of Bacoor, Cavite. Its unique combination of inspirations set it apart from the first three Italian cities of Crown Asia.

Rezidenza's primarily inspiration is Italy's industrial capital, the Lombardy region, which was dominated by the Spanish from 1535 to 1700. This brings on Residenza's combination of two architectural genres which come from different cultures—the Italians' "la dolce vita" (meaning "sweet life") and the Spanish's "caledad de vida" (meaning "quality of life").

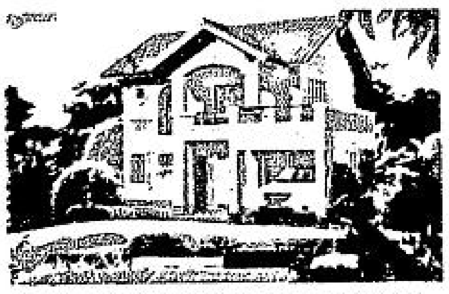
- **Amici.** A new community rises to complement the busy lifestyle of young couples while providing an ideal community for their children. Amici (meaning "friend" in Italian) is a master-planned neighborhood sited near the conveniences of Bacoor, Cavite, while maintaining a tranquil environment.

It is strategically located on NIA Road and accessible via the Las Piñas-Muntinlupa-Laguna-Cavite Link Road (also known as Daang Hari).

Each of Crown Asia's Italian city features exclusive amenities and conveniences—from clubhouses, swimming pools, basketball and tennis courts to commercial areas. The already beautiful outdoors are further enhanced with lush landscaping, parks, playgrounds, jogging paths and barbecue pits spread around the communities.

Crown Jewels

Crown Asia's latest five model homes, the Crown Jewels are available for Fortezza, Citta Italia, Maia Alta, Residenza and Amici to suit every family's unique needs and budget:



A FAMILY yearning for extensive space and added facilities can acquire such in the Emerald model home, the largest among the five models. It draws Italian inspiration and features a family area, deck, balcony, porch and lanai.

- **Jade.** Offering highly functional living space, the Jade model features a living and dining area, kitchen, two bedrooms, a toilet and bath, family hall and lanai with floor area of 64 sq m on 110-sq-m lot area..
- **Pearl.** The charm of Italy's architecture is evident in the Pearl model, with a floor area of 79 sq m on 110-sq-m lot area. It features three bedrooms, two toilets and baths, porch and lanai.
- **Sapphire.** A precious find for the growing family, the Sapphire model has a more spacious kitchen, and living and dining areas. With a floor area of 95 sq m on 121-sq-m lot area. It also features a family room, three bedrooms, three toilets and baths, balcony, porch, lanai and maid's room.
- **Emerald.** A sensible choice with more than usual space requirements, the Emerald model features roomy living and dining areas, and kitchen, family room, three bedrooms, a master's toilet and bath, two more toilets and bath, balcony, porch, lanai, deck, carport and maid's room. It has a floor area of 141 sq m on 132-sq-m lot area.
- **Ruby.** Offering gracious Italian living inside and out, the Ruby model features the most generous amount of living space with a floor area of 171 sq m on 150-sq-m lot area. It has a master's bedroom with its own toilet and bath and walk-in closet, two more bedrooms, two toilets and baths, family room, balcony, foyer, porch, lanai, deck, two-car garage and maid's room.

Guiding the thoughtful and effective masterplanning of past, present and future projects of Crown Asia are the five core values they persistently adhere to: greenery, security, choices, serenity and attainability.

At the end of the day, nothing but a well-deserved comfortable retreat should await hardworking individuals. Visit Crown Asia's Italian cities and discover life's affordable luxuries. Property previews may be arranged by calling Crown Asia South at 873-1614 or 873-6610 or Crown Asia North at 634-9001 or 634-2686.

Magnificent views of Ayala Greenfield's newest phase

EXPERIENCE the many ways to enjoy life the way only Ayala Greenfield can provide as the exclusive residential development unveils its newest phase—The Terraces at Ayala Greenfield.

Lots at the multitiered Terraces are elevated and offer panoramic views of Laguna de Bay, the Tagaytay Ridge, Mt. Makiling, and are near the sports, leisure and recreational facilities of Ayala Greenfield's own Village Clubhouse and Nature Park.

Terracing of lots

Only 100 lots are available at The Terraces. The terracing of the lots makes them look like the famous, spectacular rice terraces. But what it really does is provide a difference in lot heights—typically from 2 to 4 meters between adjacent lots. This is to help ensure that when your house is built, your view is preserved.

The new phase is very near the Village Clubhouse, whose amenities include an infinity and kiddie pool, jacuzzi, indoor courts for basketball, tennis and badminton, a 9-hole putting green, children's playground, fitness gym, game room and coffee shop. The Terraces is also adjacent to the Nature Park with fishing lagoon, multipurpose playfield, a tree house and picnic groves, camping grounds and biking/jogging trails. And this Nature Park covers an area of 15 hectares, the size of 14 soccer fields.

Propriety share

As an added plus, these lot owners will be entitled to a proprietary share and membership in the Ayala Greenfield Golf and Leisure Club. The development's 18-hole, all-weather, championship golf course designed by Robert Trent Jones II will be completed by July 2005. The golf clubhouse is also being constructed and will be ready by October 2005.

As a subdivision, Ayala Greenfield is designed to coexist within the natural, unspoiled charm of a private mountain reserve community. It's certainly a haven for nature lovers who want to live in an enchanting, romantic setting, while having the conveniences of sophisticated amenities mere steps away.

Commitment to nature

The Terraces is continuing proof of Ayala Greenfield's unparalleled commitment to nature by providing both relaxation and recreation with its clean air, cool climate and nature-rich setting—some of the unique winning features that the growing community appreciates.

Experience the magnificent views of The Terraces at Ayala Greenfield's open house on June 12. The lots will formally be launched and can be viewed on the daylong event. The nature-friendly neighborhood is only 30 minutes from Alabang.

For inquiries, please call 728-7000, log on to www.ayalagreenfieldestates.com or e-mail ayalasales@ayalaland.com.ph.

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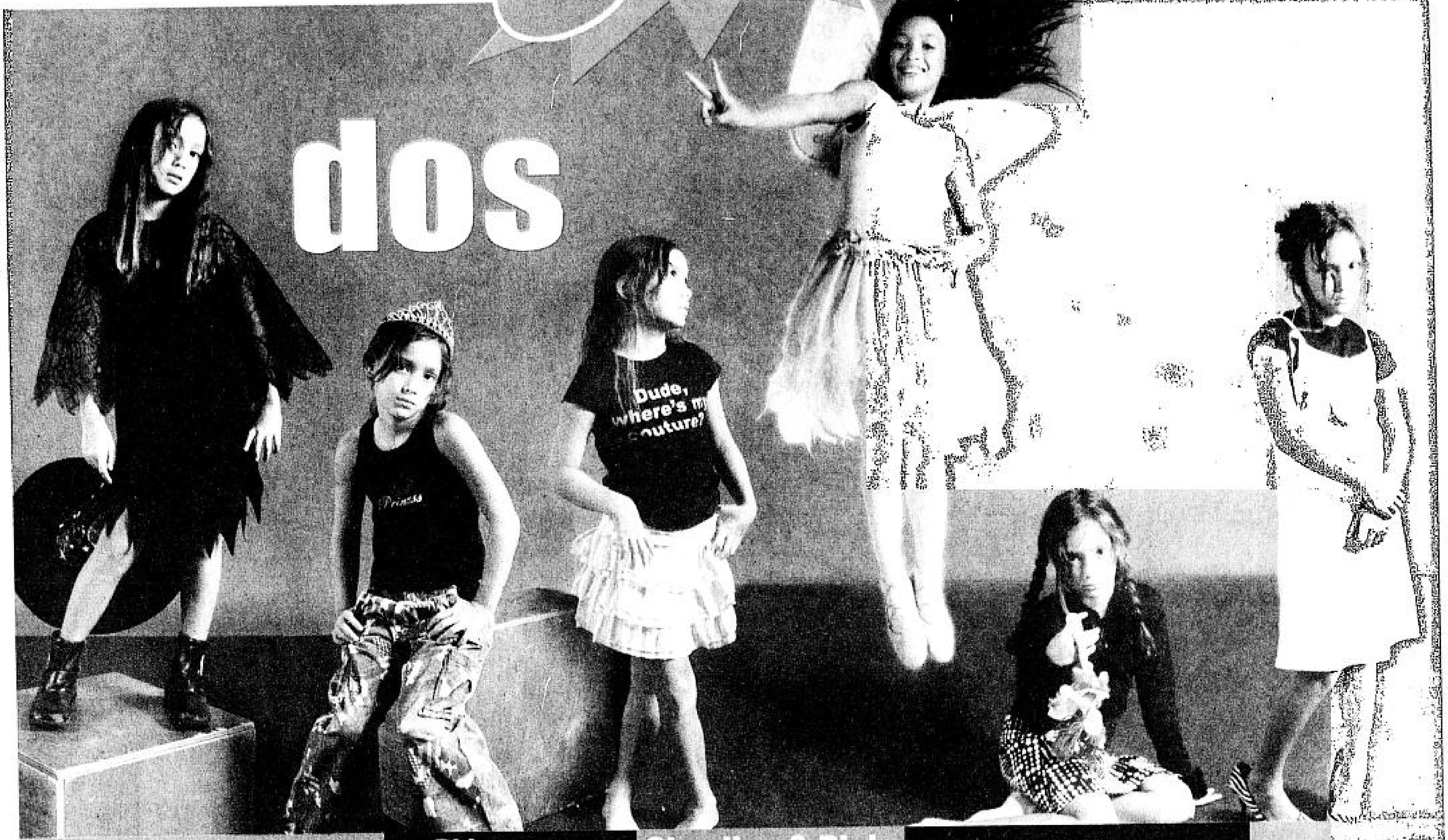
dos
Dude, where's my couture?
Princess

Part two of Super's 2nd Anniversary issue—our stand on piracy, violence and our generation

Did Direk Luigi die a senseless death? page E1

Claudine & Piolo shine at the Cannes Film Festival page G1

Xander Angeles' wet, wet shots page D2

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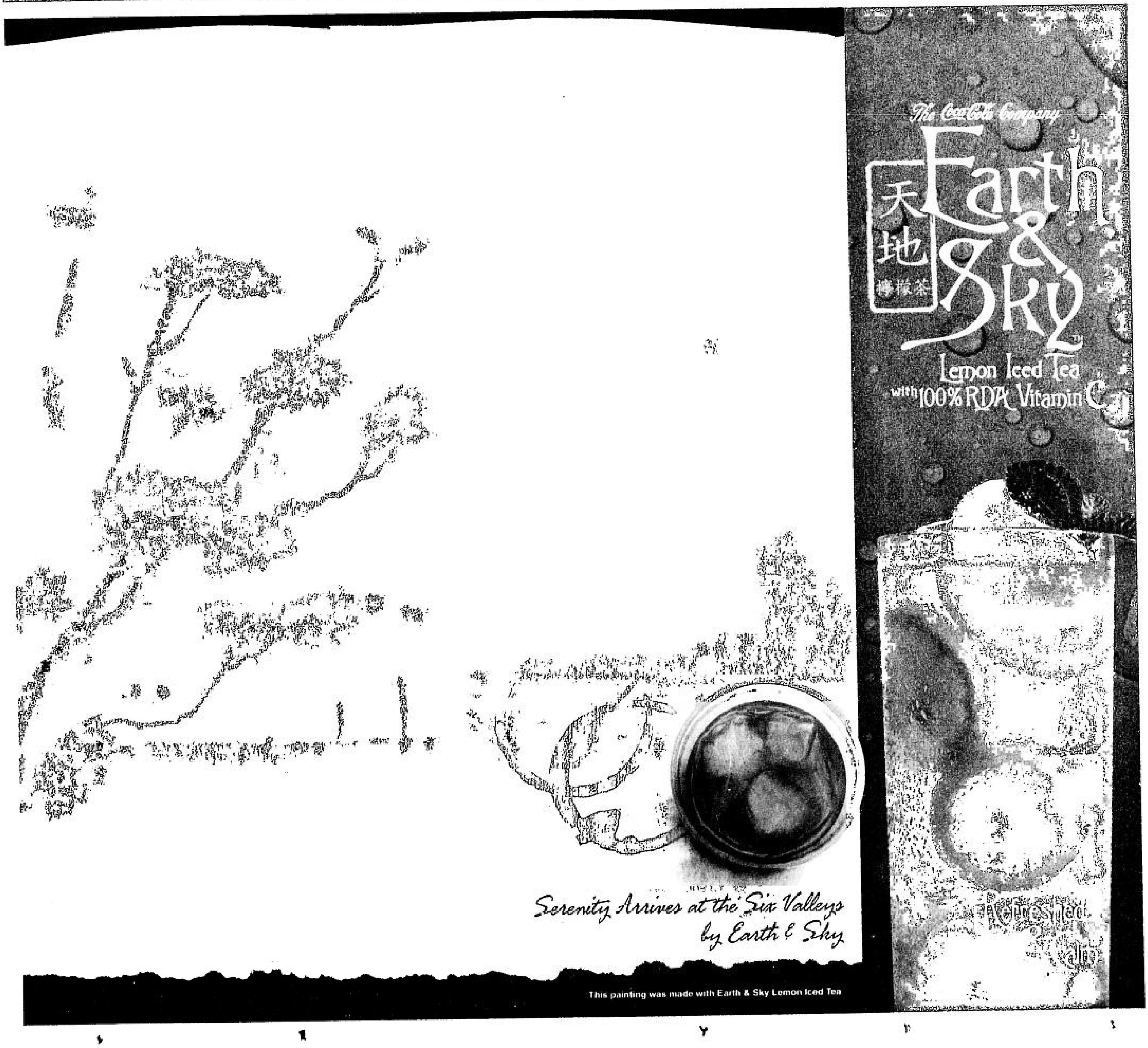

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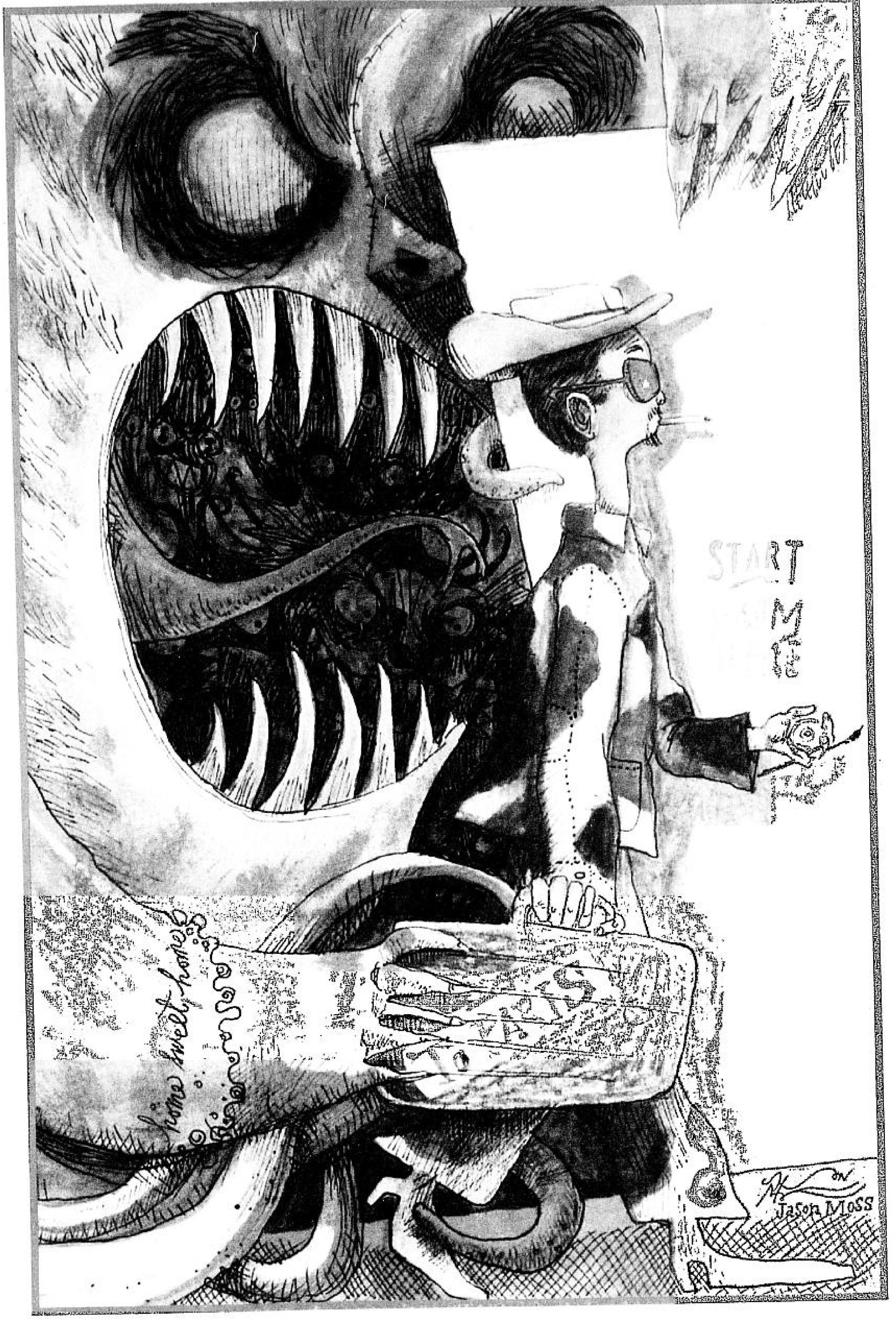
Serenity Arrives at the Six Valleys
by Earth & Sky
This painting was made with Earth & Sky Lemon Iced Tea



Breakdowns and breakthroughs

Be thankful for your past and know that your future can be completely independent of it

By Katrina Holigores
Original artwork by Jason Moss

WE ARE all subject to moods. Being human, we're not expected to perpetually be even tempered, light and bubbly, no matter our choice of beverage. When asked about this some blame the weather, others the immediate surroundings, and for the Freud loving, the past. Nothing can equal a good old fashioned rant and rave. It sometimes feels super to cuss out loud, to think violent thoughts about your worst enemy (or best friend) or plot the annihilation of bus drivers in the metropolis.

The point is, we all sink low at one time or another and we say and think awful things. Even if we know we have to rise up from our pit of darkness and go forward, wallowing in misery and self pity can be comforting. At least when you're at the bottom of the heap, you know exactly where you are. Right? (Pass me the prozac please.)

In Anthony Robbins' (yes the gargantuan man in Shallow Hal) book, Awaken the Giant Within, he points to two triggers that are crucial in our decision making process. These are: Pleasure and Pain—for fans of the Sandman series, The Agony and the Ecstasy.

Avoid pain

The majority choose to avoid pain. This avoidance sometimes leads to denial, and denial can then lead to demise (and I don't just mean in the physical sense). Pain and pleasure are of course subjective. I have seen grown men risk their lives for the pleasure of the thrill of jumping out a perfectly good airplane... and then cower and quiver in fear at the sight of a teeny tiny needle aimed at their rear end. A woman will allow herself the agony of hunger in order to feel ecstasy when she easily slips into her little black dress.

These are examples on a simplistic plane, what I would like to focus on has much deeper roots. Pain is up to a person's perception, and when it is put in a positive light (positive?) it can actually lift you to a whole new level. How so? Look at it this way. We all have issues. Some I admit, more than others. Issues can be reworded as baggage or fears.

Unless you are one of the enlightened ones (i.e. NOT Anakin), the very thought of facing one's fears is as scary as a facelift gone bad. We all have to choose which path to take in life, be it school, major, job, romantic partner or lifelong partner. Subconsciously (think about it now in hindsight) we actually weighed the pain-pleasure principle before making our decision.

When we do not acknowledge what brings us pain, then we will not know what will ultimately give us pleasure. Do you notice how you often have "blasts" from the past? Situations, people, songs, lines from movies that make you recall (and recoil at) unpleasant and or traumatic memories?

Influenced by a memory

Let me make this clearer. You will know that you are still being influenced by a memory (or a fear) if you still react to it in a negative, even spiteful manner. The wound has not healed and instead of finding out its true cause, you choose to ignore it. When you see the former love of your life walking in the mall hand in hand with your former best friend and the first thing that springs to mind is bloodlust... then rest assured this experience will affect your outlook on your future relationships, both in love and in friendship. Instead of moving up you slide back down. It is a crappy feeling not wanting to trust anyone again, especially yourself and your taste!

Can you relate? Look, I'm not saying that your bone-head ex and your equally boneheaded ex friend should be canonized. I'm just saying that they are still alive (Why God, Why?) to REMIND you of what you really feel. As one of my favorite authors wrote, "Stop refusing to acknowledge what life is showing you about yourself." Ouch.

When you go on selective memory mode, at some point you're going to have a breakdown. Set yourself free from the traumas that entrap you (and they always come when you least expect them, making it doubly harder) and have a pain "breakthrough" instead.

The Taoists believe that if you really want to get over something (like an obsession) then you either drop it completely or saturate yourself with it. This is going to sound very unpalatable but try to drown yourself in the feeling of disgust, betrayal, anger etc., etc., you feel towards person A or situation A. One day, you wake up, and you are no longer affected. Why? Because you're fed up with feeling like... (cuss word here).

The word independence is synonymous with freedom. Starting right now, be thankful for your past and know that your future can be completely independent of it. It's time for a breakthrough. Happy Independence Day!

Who da pirate?

Text and collage by Pepe Diokno

RIGHT before Star Trek Enterprise on HBO, I saw this ad that said, "If you think it's wrong to steal cars, and bags, and money, it's just as wrong to buy pirated. Piracy is theft."—or something like that. The ad is part of the HIP (Honor Intellectual Property) campaign of the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore.

And cool, piracy is theft. And it's deteriorating society! (Echo, echo) The ad places a lack of respect for an artist's intellectual property at the center of the piracy problem. And I agree. But the problem is, who has the right to talk about honoring intellectual property in the first place?

Buzz! What are record companies and movie studios? Wrong. Companies who make money off other people's creations and put profit as their top priority do not honor intellectual property. Record companies aren't on this earth for the music—they're here for money. Same goes with movie studios. When these corporations ask you to stop buying pirated, they're really just asking you to give them more money. Don't mind them.

Buzz! What is the government? Wrong again. We pay 1/3 of our annual income to our government—and they tax us for everything we buy—and at least more than half of the revenue they get goes into the pockets of Secretaries blahblah and blahblah (and the people who make up their Edsa motorcade).

The government is full of people with individual interests. These people make their money off of your work and my work. They feed off us. They have no right to lecture us about honoring intellectual property. If they did, they'd respect us enough to show us where 1/3 of our income goes. When the government asks you to stop buying pirated, they're really just asking you to fund their next scandal.

We're all pirates!

So it turns out that the main proponents of anti-piracy campaigns aren't in the position to talk to us about intellectual property rights in the first place. They're pirates themselves. The real message of the "No to Piracy" mumbo jumbo is, "Give this fat businessman money" and, "Give this fat politician some dough." It's kinda like the US Government saying they want to kill terrorism when they themselves strike terror in the hearts of little Arab children, among others.

Moolah is behind all this anti-piracy crap. If there wasn't any money in music and movies, we wouldn't have an Optical Media Board and Intellectual Property Office.

Look—in the end, when piracy is, um, eradicated, the ones who will benefit are, first the record companies and movie studios, then the government. The artists get the crumbs. (Like, remember when TLC said they were bankrupt? Anyway…)

Victims!

The victims of piracy are the artists themselves. They're victims of you and me buying CDs worth P50 each and downloading stuff off the net, yes. But they're also victims of executives and politicos leeching on their talent. Everyone's trying to get a piece of these artists, but they're the poorest ones around. People don't realize that the artist is the basic form of life. (Like plants!)

It's typical of Filipino society to look down on the building blocks of society. The labor sector, for example, is regarded with as much respect in this country as, say, rags. They get paid the lowest, but work the hardest—they work their asses off for rice and salt. And then we laugh at the thought that if all of them died of starvation, none of us will survive (it's possible.).

This system of society is a sickness—and it's one of the reasons why our country will never improve. The day we start giving truck drivers and janitors their due is the day we will develop (Any sign of that happening, mister? Uh, sorry.). This is a sickness and a problem.

Piracy on the other hand is a sickness but it isn't the problem. It's (drum roll…) the way we think. A lack of respect for (or knowledge on) intellectual property, is a major part of the piracy issue. A lack of regard for the people who actually do the work is another problem. Our national leaders' being out of touch with the way 90 percent of our country lives is another major problem. Unless we change the way we think, the Philippines—and all Filipinos, for that matter—is destined to utter ruin.

The way we Filipinos think contributes to the one big word we pray to God (or Allah, or the kami, or Buddha—it doesn't matter) to get rid of—poverty.

Poverty

Piracy will never be expelled from this region unless something is done about poverty. And to try to solve piracy and pay attention to IP rights are futile when most Filipinos can't eat.

Picture this: OMB chairman Edu Manzano arrives in an expensive car at a slum area in Caloocan or some other place. He makes his way to a flimsy stage and delivers a speech. "I know you people only make P50 a day, which isn't even enough to feed yourself let alone your family, but please, if you want to enjoy the music of Sarah Geronimo, do not eat for just five days, and buy a P250 original CD!"

Now they won't be able to enjoy Sarah Geronimo. (Aww…) So the argument is that if you can't buy something, you can probably live without it. If you can't buy CDs, too bad. But any musician will say that music is life. And any filmmaker will tell you that film is the foremost medium of expression that everybody needs.

The people who make the products that are pirated most often will say that their creations are essential to life. It is the soulless politico who doesn't get that, and will say that music is an unnecessary expense.

The point is you cannot tell people who are underpaid (hey, even minimum wage is below what is needed to keep a family alive) to spend a whole week's salary on music. But at the same time, you cannot deprive a person of music.

Demand, supply, solution

But you're right. There's no concrete, clear-cut course of action against piracy. But the least we can do is know what we're attacking. It's not the supply of pirated products, but the demand of them that we should eradicate. See, if people want something, they're going to find ways to get it. These raids our officials do are like games of whack-a-mole. (If you see something come up, whack it! Oops, there's another one! Whack it!)

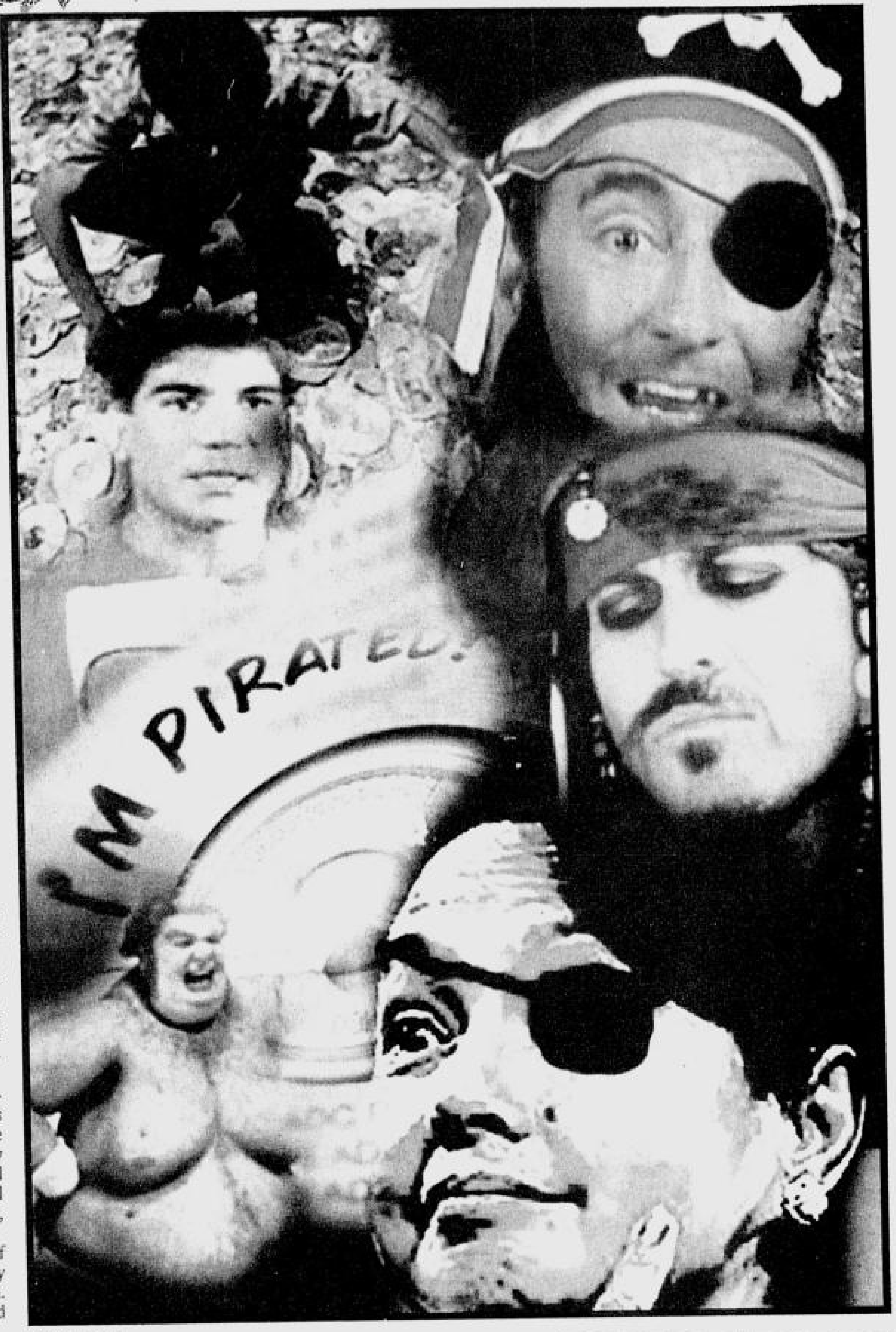
The solution is to address the demand for pirated products. Record companies and movie studios have to show us that they put music and movies before profit. (Now that is ideal, but telling people to respect artists' rights while being after the money themselves is hypocritical.) And the government should put more effort into realizing long-term goals like speeding up the justice system, fixing the Labor Code, and decentralizing powers, and become less involved in short-term problems like the operation at the back of Metrowalk.

And third, the artists have to be aware of blood-sucking from all directions. Though it is hard to survive without canoodling with and giving into the companies that distribute your work, people must realize that these corporations need you. The people who create must band together and stand up for (cliché coming:) their rights. (Just like People Power… or something.)

These "Say No To Piracy" drives are nothing but crap—they're there but no one minds them. They're there but they don't solve the main issues that cause piracy. The money used for a 30-second spot about intellectual property can be used to put people to school and educate them even better about rights, and proper consumerism. (Hey, an -ism!)

Piracy is theft. And all of us are guilty of it—we're all guilty of living off somebody else's work. But then, piracy isn't the problem. The problem is that our society is sick, and that our country is poor. Raid that, freaks.

Comments at pepediokno@gmail.com



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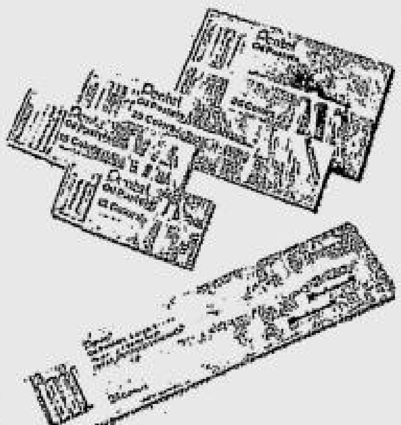
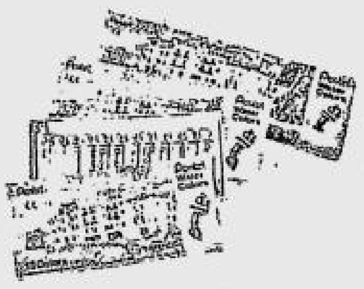
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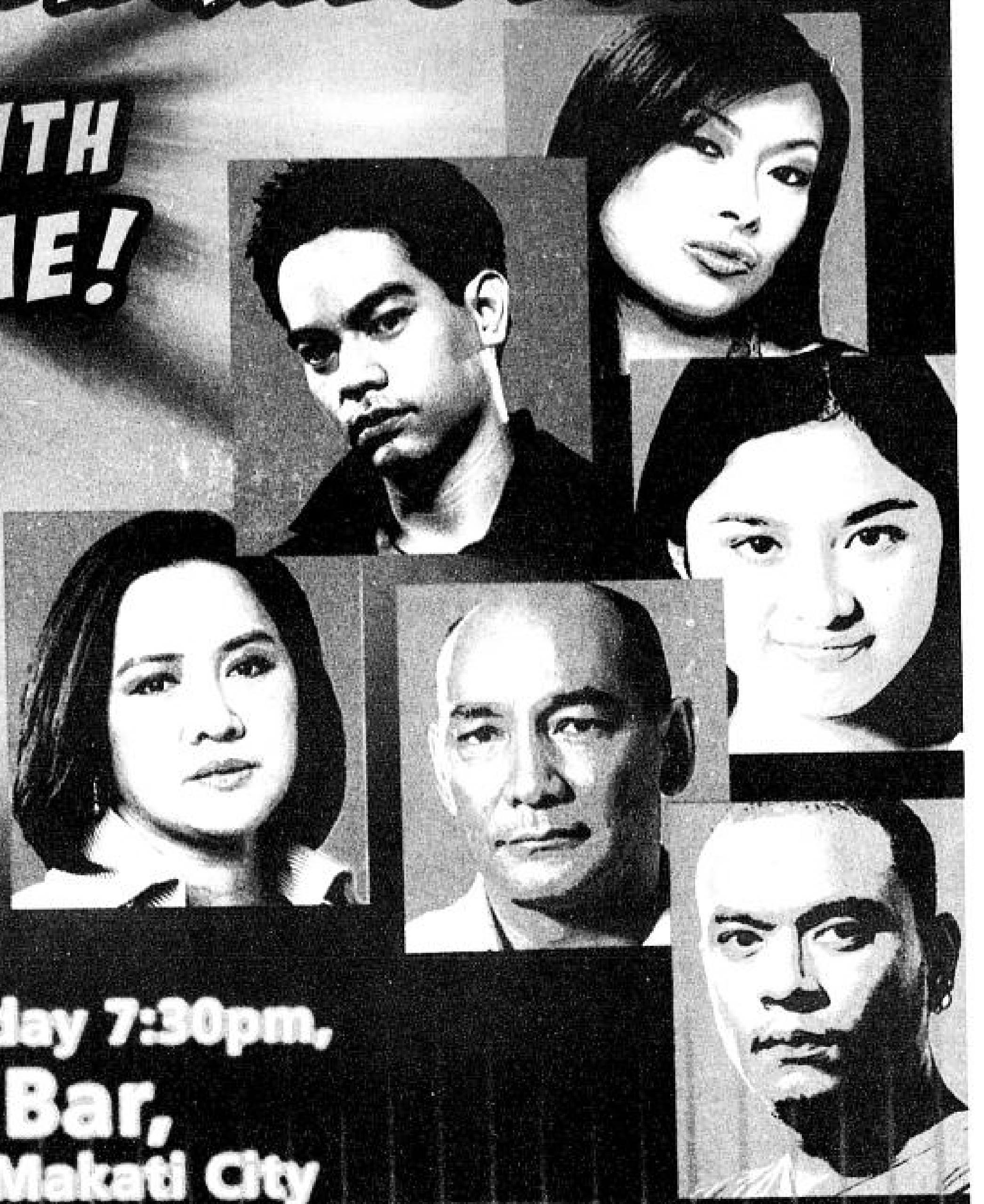

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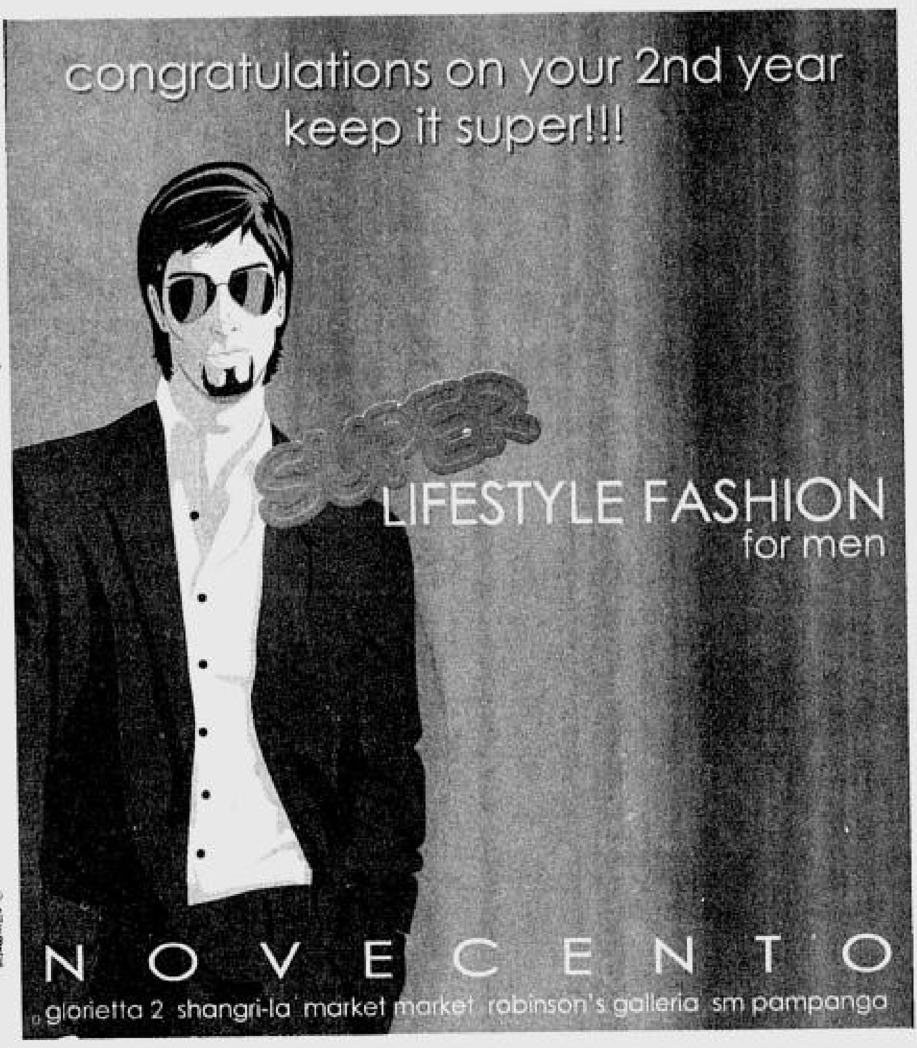
SWEDE, SEXY THING!

WANT the company of a Scandanavian tonight? Then get a sweet earful of house music from Sweden as Axwell comes to town to spread his ministry. A lot of fine house acts have been coming out of Sweden lately, and Axwell is veritably at the forefront. This young Swedish producer will be playing god at the turntables as Ministry of Sound graces our dance floors once again, all thanks to BigFish. Axwell has chalked up three massive Mambana tracks on Soulfuric, Jetlag "So Right" (Soulfuric) and of course 2 of his solo releases thus far "Lead Guitar" (Stoney Boy) & "Wait A Minute" feat Nevada (Device). Axwell's latest solo offering is arguably his biggest record to date. "Feel the Vibe" later tonight at the NBC Tent. Par-taaay!!!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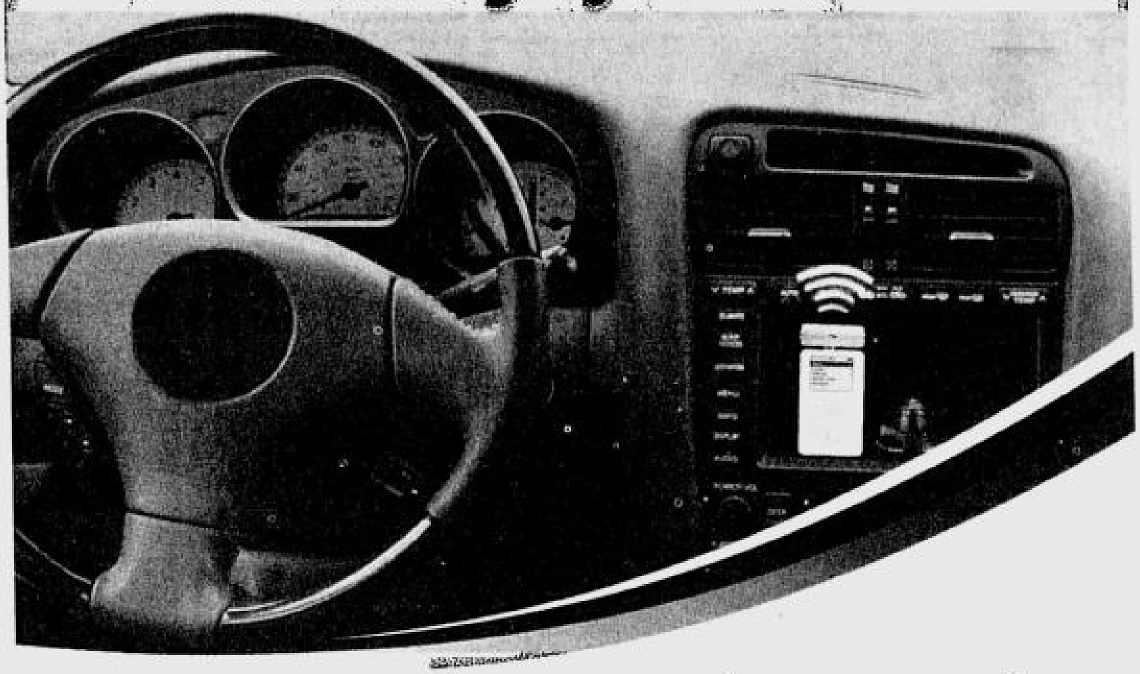
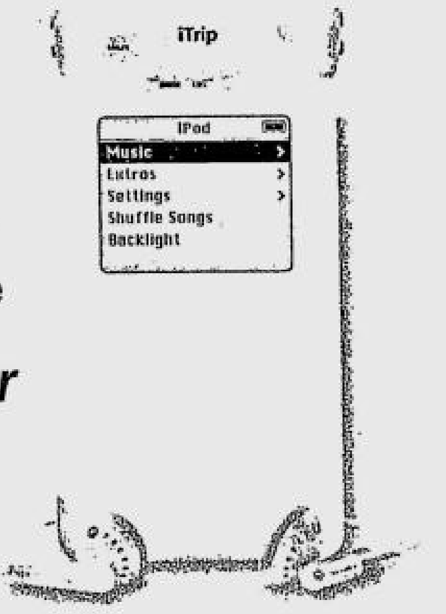
Perfect joyride duo.

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Settings
Shuffle Songs
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Are things moving so fast that we don't have time to stop and look ourselves at the mirror?

Look Ma—no labels!

Text and photos by James Gabrillo

WE'RE living in times where Catholic schoolgirls have traded their starched white blouses for kabuki ghost-faces, where ex-badass skater kids turn into musicians, where a lass named Paris is going to marry a lad named Paris, where people take footage of plastic bags being blown by the wind in an alley because sometimes there is just so much beauty in the world. Welcome to the decade we all lovingly refer to as... well... umm... err... something. Oh what the heck, does it matter if the current decade doesn't have a pet name?

We hear nicks for the past decades—the "Roaring 20s," "Swingin' 60s" and "Me-Decade 70s" and wonder what the 00s moniker is or will be. "Zeroes"? "Aughts"? "Uh-Ohs"? Not only is this decade being criticized for not having a moniker, people go as far as saying that the 00s has no clear cultural personality. Is this true?

The first retort that comes to mind is this. The reason we do not have a clear nick is that the decade's not yet done, silly. But then, some would argue that there's reason to worry because we're almost half the decade's over and there's still no emerging thought that has awakened the population enough to make them speak, wear, taste, hold and live a specific idea, brand or icon.

There's another possible answer. Because things are moving and altering in such great speeds, there's just not enough time for a definite scheme or symbol to be fully embraced by society. Not only do we dwell in a Formula One racetrack of zooms and swooshes, every next person you see in the MRT has ADHD (also known as mom-I-can't-read-that-book-'cause-it's-30-pages-looong!).

Take for instance, language. Aha—something that's constantly changing, especially these days. To illustrate, let's take the word "fire." Back then, it was the word to use to refer to coolness—as in, "You won the spelling bee and you're going to the Moffats concert—you're on fire!"

After some seasons of Survivor and the birth of Brandon Boyds in the world of cheesy pop music (read: not taking that back), "heat" replaced the word "fire"—as in, "Are you seriously having dinner at Padi's Point? You are in heat, beybeh!"

But just hours after, "One Night in Paris" introduced itself to us via the internet and Paris Hilton forced her ice queen self (plus chihuahua) into our lives. This marked the end of "heat" and the it-ness of the word "hot"—as in, "Nicole, you bumped the police car on purpose? That's hot."

And now, "hot" is so overused that people are going back to the original "fire." Bluhdy bhrillyunt.

See, people's incomes and freedom are escalating exponentially, making it easier for them to fulfill their ambition to affect culture. This makes the shifting of ideas and thoughts quicker and quicker, creating this big whirlwind of... stuff, which can't be easily deciphered, what more condensed into a word.

Moving on, the third possibility why the 00s decade doesn't have a name is the fact that citizens who exist in the decade abhor the idea of being labeled with a sticky tag. A decade moniker is something that celebrates the people of the decade and what they believed in. How then can we label the 00s if we're not always sure of who we are and what to believe? See how annoying this blah-di-blah mass identity crisis gets?

Let's explore the hodgepodge: we're supposedly living in a decade of "supposedlys." A supposed war, the supposed boom of postmodernism—a collision of styles as a high-concept joke, fashion supposedly being so dangerous that we have to take off our shoes at the airport, über-campy deeds becoming supposedly über-pop manias, like people walking down the streets with their butt cracks showing.

All these colorful details have lead to the current attitude of discouraging the idea of a harmonious public picture—with each individual having their own image instead.

Our friends from Japan are currently struck by the fad of porn karaoke—where performers provide orgiastic audio for their choice of hardcore clips. I guess this anomalous case leads to the best nickname I can think of right now—"Super! Porn Karaoke 00s."

When you hear that name, what comes to mind is this vulgar courage to moan in spite of knowing that the whole barrio is watching you. And I think this is what this decade is about—bravery, sexuality, delightful and disgusting icons and yes, thoughtlessness. Or you can just ignore that—maybe I was just really amused by the idea.

Super! asked around what the 00s decade nick should be. Here's what we caught...

Funktafied 00s - Jon Herrera, DJ / bar owner

The OH MY GOD IT'S SO BORING I THOUGHT WE'D HAVE ALIENS AND FLYING CARS BUT WE JUST HAVE BRITNEY Decade - Quark Henares, filmmaker

The Decade of the I - Lex Ledesma, CIE director

Cyber 00s - Frank Hoefsmit, photographer

Xanax Zeroes - Celine Lopez, columnist

What the F#!*?!? Years - Bennil, Magic 89.9 DJ / drummer

Partyin' 00s - Robbie Mananquil, model

Hedonist 00s - Tina Tinio, Shu Eumura brand manager

The Chill Mill - Anton Ramos, audio connoisseur

Crazy 00s - Mark Nicdao, photographer

F#!*in' 00s - Ino Caluza, jeans designer

Dizzy Decade - Eddie Boy Escudero, photographer

Tragic 00s - Puey Quiñones, designer

Blogging Decade - Budjette Tan, graphic artist

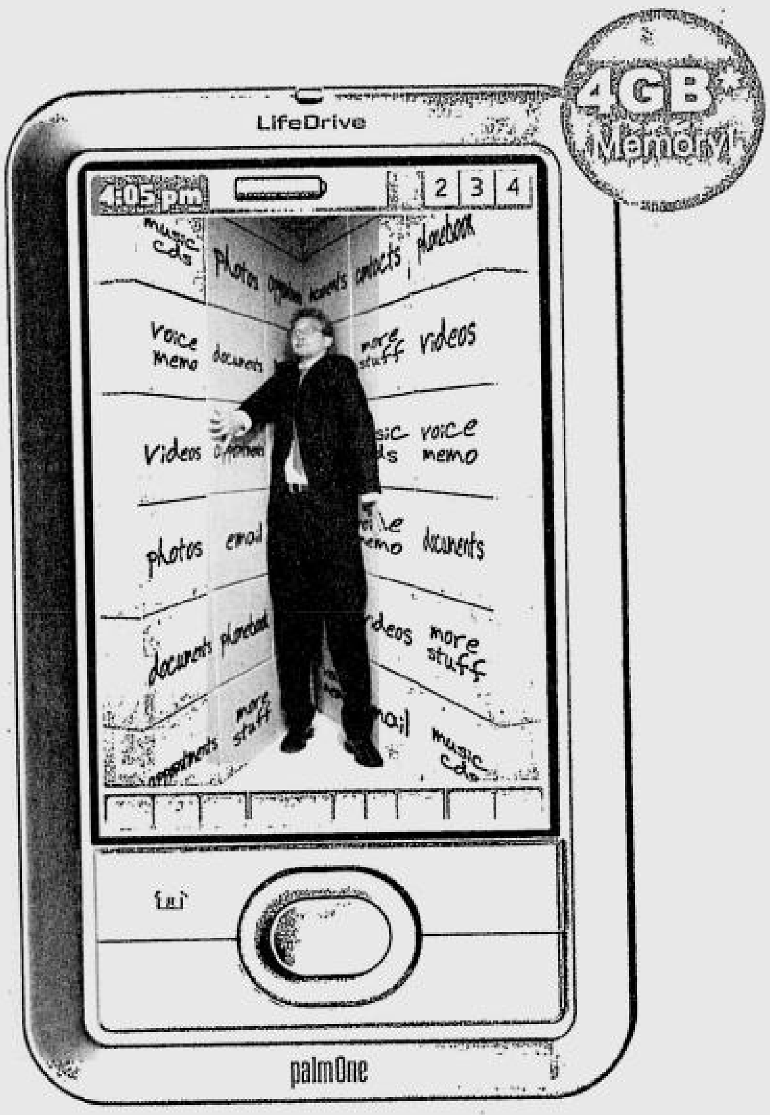
Chillin' 00s - Jugs Jugueta, vocalist of Itchyworms

Me.You.Now.00s - Happy David, jewelry designer

Oomph-0-0 - Shahani Gania, stylist

The Terrorized Zeroes - Raffy Reyes, RX 93.1 DJ

The Now 00s - Itos Valdes, Studio 23 newscaster / band manager



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Per DTI - NCR Permit No. 17 es of 2005

Avant: 2/F Greenbelt 4 **Complink:** Parksquare1, Basement - Shangri - La Mall, 3/F Robinson's Galleria, 4/F Cyberzone – SM Megamall, Cyberzone - SM Southmall, G/F Cyberzone SM North EDSA, SM Bacoor **Electroworld:** Parksquare 1, Alabang Town Center, G/F SM North EDSA, G/F Greenbelt 1, 4/F Cyberzone - SM Megamall **E-Hub:** 2/F Cybermall - Eastwood City, 3/F Alabang Town Center **Globotel:** G/F Greenbelt 1, 4/F Market! Market!, 2/F Cybermall - Eastwood City **Mobile 1:** Parksquare 1, Basement Level - Podium, 2/F Rustan's Makati, G/F Rustan's Alabang Town Center **palmOne podCentral:** 3/F Digital Exchange - Glorietta 3 **Silicon Valley:** 4/F Cyberzone – SM Megamall, Parksquare1, G/F Cyberzone SM North EDSA, 3/F Alabang Town Center, 2/F SM Southmall, SM Pampanga

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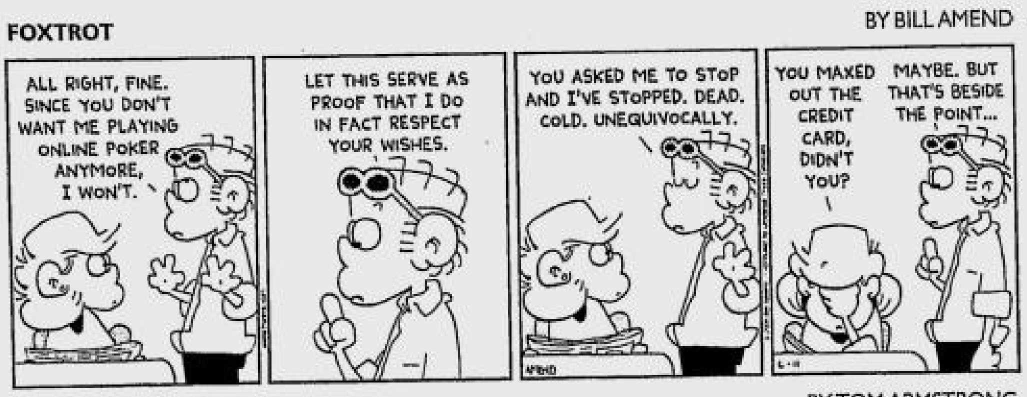
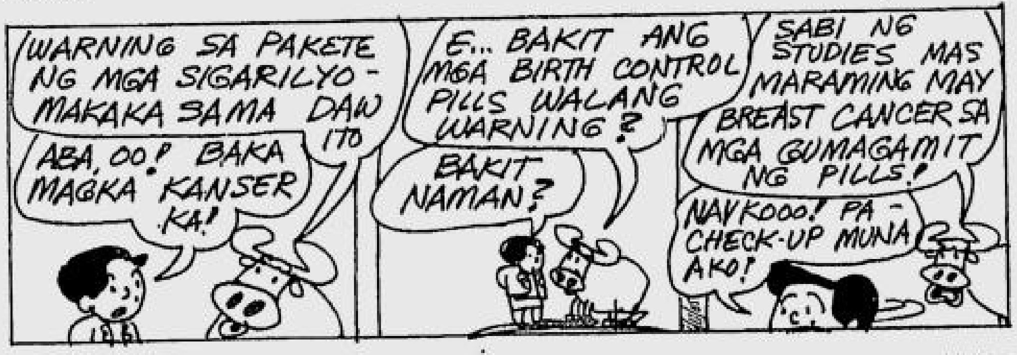
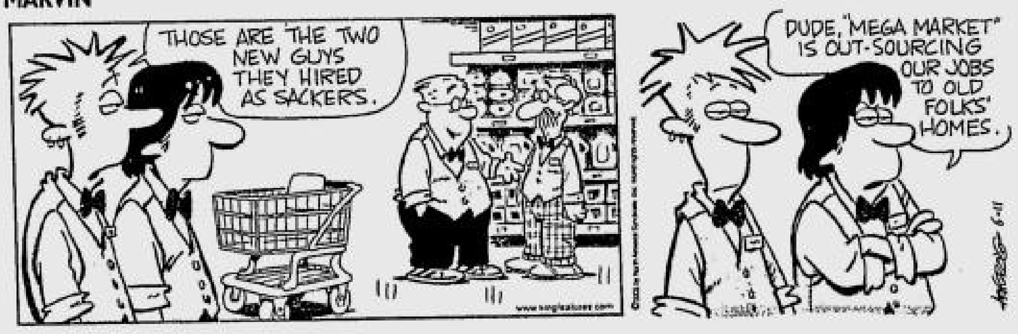
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


ALL RIGHT, FINE. SINCE YOU DON'T WANT ME PLAYING ONLINE POKER ANYMORE, I WON'T.
LET THIS SERVE AS PROOF THAT I DO IN FACT RESPECT YOUR WISHES.
YOU ASKED ME TO STOP AND I'VE STOPPED. DEAD. COLD. UNEQUIVOCALLY.
YOU MAXED OUT THE CREDIT CARD, DIDN'T YOU?
MAYBE. BUT THAT'S BESIDE THE POINT...

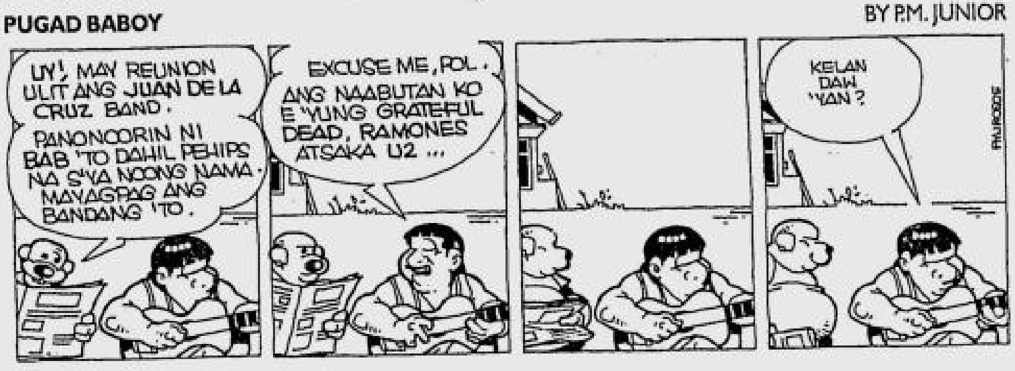
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


WARNING SA PAKETE NG MGA SIGARILYO - MAKAKA SAMA DAW ITO
ABA, OO! BAKA MAGKA KANSER KA!
E... BAKIT ANG MGA BIRTH CONTROL PILLS WALANG WARNING?
BAKIT NAMAN?
SABI NG STUDIES MAS MARAMING MAY BREAST CANCER SA MGA GUMAGAMIT NG PILLS!
NAYKOOO! PA-CHECK-UP MUNA AKO!

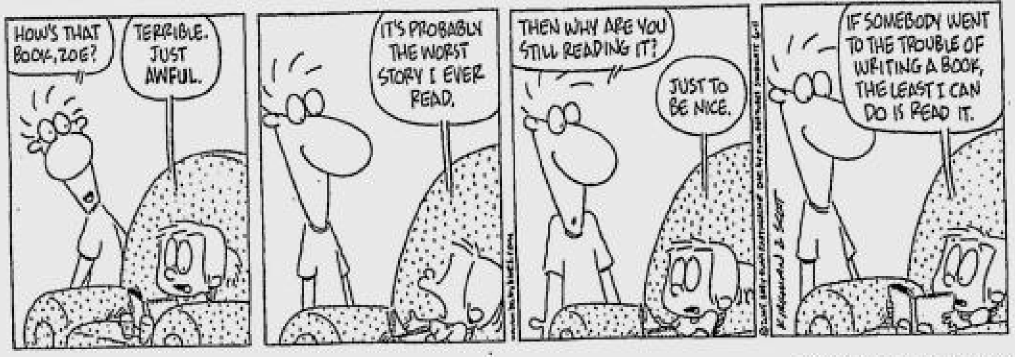
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


THOSE ARE THE TWO NEW GUYS THEY HIRED AS SACKERS.
DUDE, "MEGA MARKET" IS OUT-SOURCING OUR JOBS TO OLD FOLKS' HOMES.

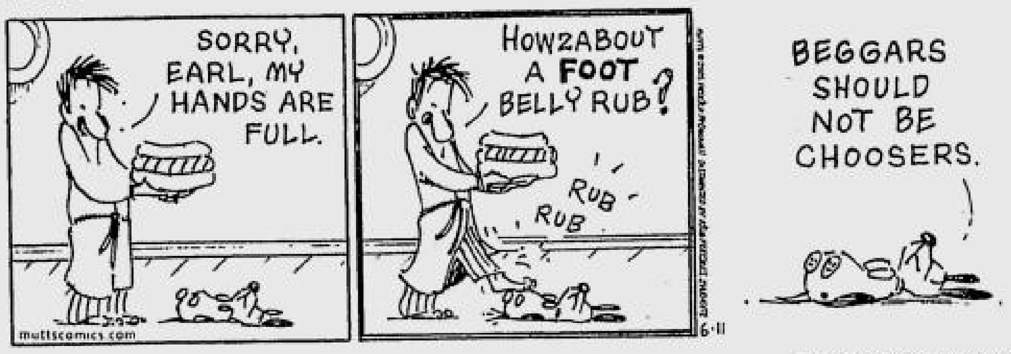
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


UY! MAY REUNION ULIT ANG JUAN DE LA CRUZ BAND.
PANONOORIN NI BAB 'TO DAHIL PEHIPS NA S'YA NOONG NAMA. MAYAGPAG ANG BANDANG 'TO.
EXCUSE ME, POL. ANG NAABUTAN KO E 'YUNG GRATEFUL DEAD, RAMONES ATSAKA U2 ...
KELAN DAW 'YAN?

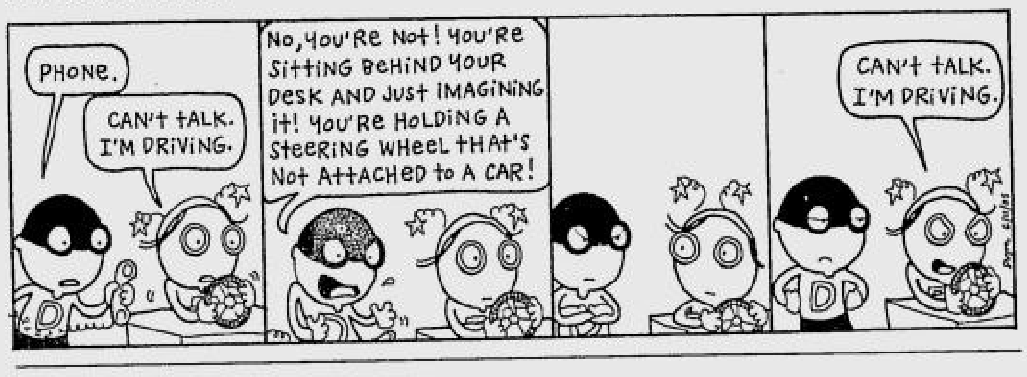
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


HOW'S THAT BOOK, ZOE?
TERRIBLE. JUST AWFUL.
IT'S PROBABLY THE WORST STORY I EVER READ.
THEN WHY ARE YOU STILL READING IT?
JUST TO BE NICE.
IF SOMEBODY WENT TO THE TROUBLE OF WRITING A BOOK, THE LEAST I CAN DO IS READ IT.

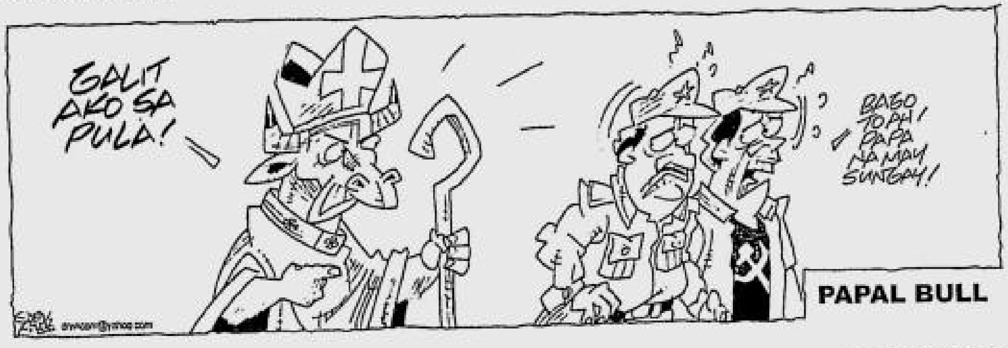
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SORRY, EARL, MY HANDS ARE FULL.
HOWZABOUT A FOOT BELLY RUB?
RUB RUB
BEGGARS SHOULD NOT BE CHOOSERS.
muttscomics.com

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

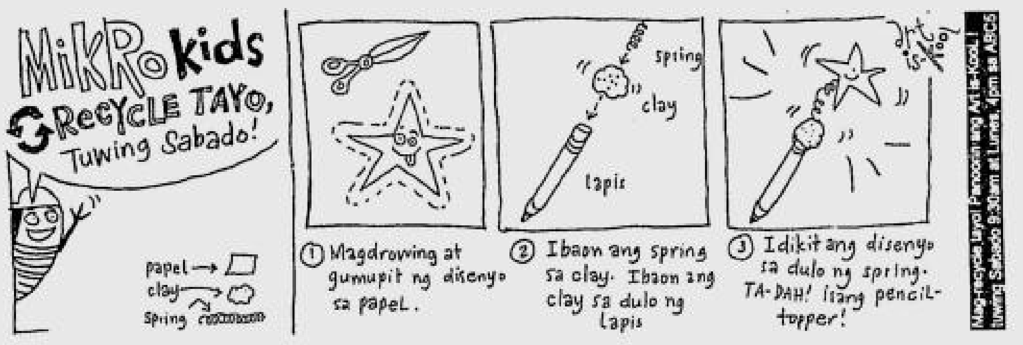

PHONE.
CAN'T TALK. I'M DRIVING.
No, You're Not! You're Sitting Behind Your Desk And Just Imagining it! You're Holding A Steering Wheel That's Not Attached to A CAR!
CAN'T TALK. I'M DRIVING.

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

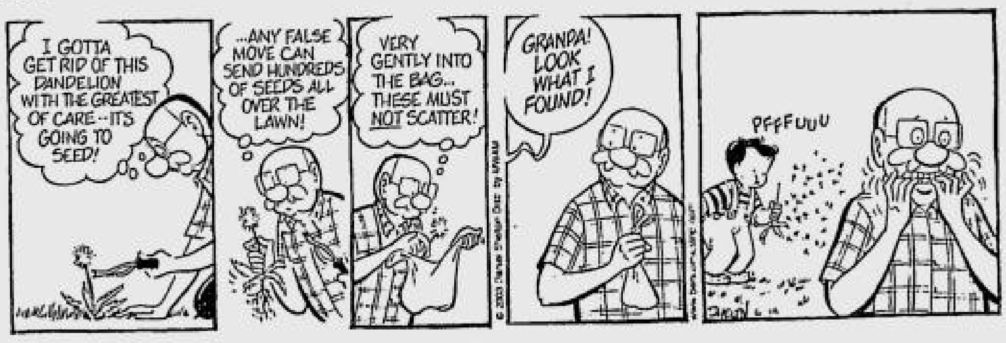

GALIT AKO SA PULA!
BAGO TO AH! PAPA NA MAY SUNGAY!

PAPAL BULL

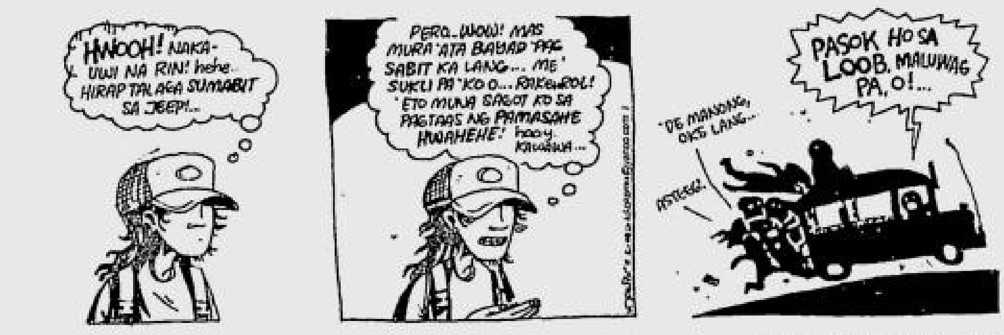
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKRo Kids
Recycle Tayo, Tuwing Sabado!
papel
clay
Spring
spring
clay
lapis
① Magdrowing at gumupit ng disenyo sa papel.
② Ibaon ang spring sa clay. Ibaon ang clay sa dulo ng lapis
③ Idikit ang disenyo sa dulo ng spring. TA-DAH! Isang pencil-topper!
Art is Kool!

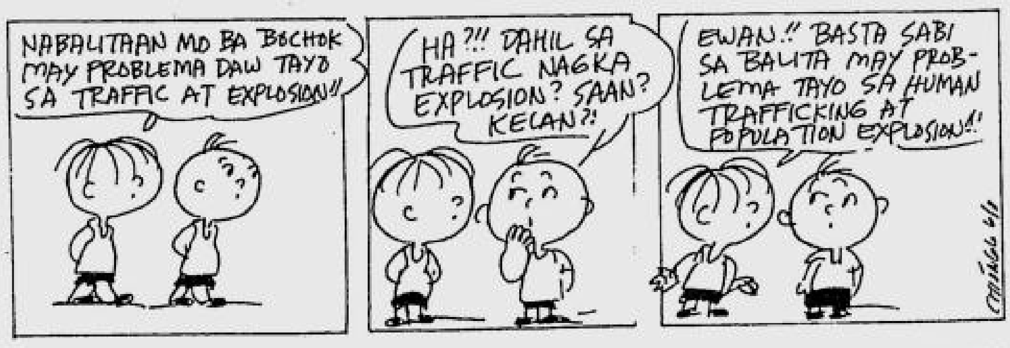
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


I GOTTA GET RID OF THIS DANDELION WITH THE GREATEST OF CARE--ITS GOING TO SEED!
...ANY FALSE MOVE CAN SEND HUNDREDS OF SEEDS ALL OVER THE LAWN!
VERY GENTLY INTO THE BAG... THESE MUST NOT SCATTER!
GRANPA! LOOK WHAT I FOUND!
PFFFUUU

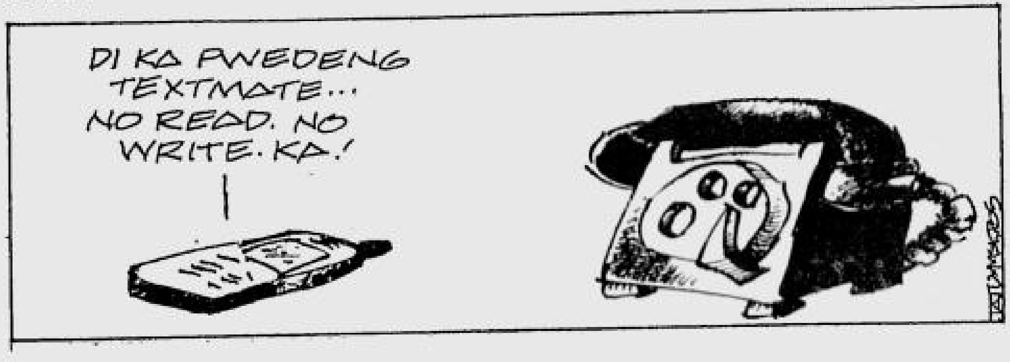
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


HWOOH! NAKA-UWI NA RIN! hehe. HIRAP TALAGA SUMABIT SA JEEP!..
PERO...WOW! MAS MURA 'ATA BAYAD 'PAG SABIT KA LANG... ME' SUKLI PA 'KO O... ROCK&ROL! 'ETO MUNA SAGOT KO SA PAGTAAS NG PAMASAHE HWAHEHE! hooy. KAWAWA...
PASOK HO SA LOOB. MALUWAG PA, O!...
"DE MANONG, OKS LANG..."

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NABALITAAN MO BA BOCHOK MAY PROBLEMA DAW TAYO SA TRAFFIC AT EXPLOSION!!
HA?!! DAHIL SA TRAFFIC NAGKA EXPLOSION? SAAN? KELAN?!
EWAN!! BASTA SABI SA BALITA MAY PROBLEMA TAYO SA HUMAN TRAFFICKING AT POPULATION EXPLOSION!!

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


DI KA PWEDENG TEXTMATE... NO READ. NO WRITE. KA!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Your courage and diligence allow you to push yourself almost beyond your boundaries. You're dedicated. Basically, you're a student all your life, because you're curious, and you adore learning and exploring the world. You're also competitive and intense. Nevertheless, your positive energy is upbeat! The year ahead favors social times and romance.

Birthdate of: Gene Wilder, actor; Anna Akhmatova, poet; Caroline Quentin, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You have some big ideas about making repairs at home. You've decided to fix the place up as well as fix what is broken. Great!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): The month ahead will be busy with short trips, buying and selling, and talking to people. You can expect the tempo of your days to accelerate.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): In the month ahead, you will become increasingly active with groups, especially those related to physical sports. You'll also be more concerned with your cash flow.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Today Mercury moves into your sign, where it stays for the next two weeks. This gives you a strong desire to communicate to others. You have something you want to say!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You have an increasing desire to branch out in one of two possible directions: Either you want to travel and explore the world more; or you want to be involved in publishing and the media.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Your interaction with friends and groups will increase in the next few weeks. You feel more intensely about something. You want to know how others feel about this subject.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You like to keep the peace. (That's because you like harmony in your environment.) Today Mars moves opposite your sign, and this encourages disputes with partners. Stay mellow.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You're gung-ho to get organized! Therefore, you'll put out extra effort in the next few weeks to set your affairs in order. You particularly want a well-oiled working space.

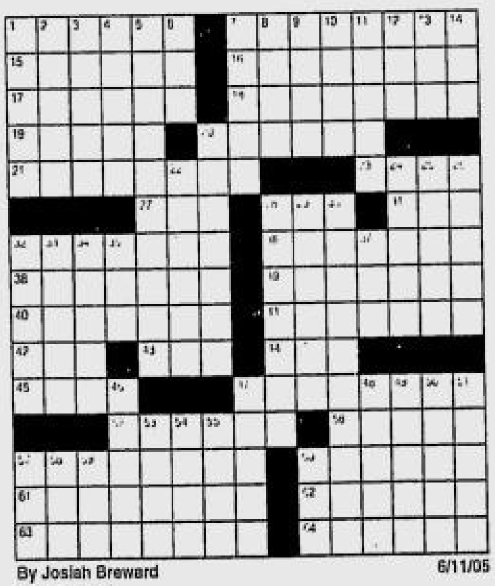
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You're feeling increasingly flirtatious and playful! You want to have fun. You feel relaxed being just who you are, without any pretense or apology.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): In the month ahead, many of you will experience increased chaos and activity at home. This could be due to renovations, moves or visiting company.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You're very convincing at work now. You believe in what you're doing, and you want others to know exactly what you mean. If you have to convince anyone about anything, you'll definitely be able to do it!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): In the month ahead, you're prepared to spend more money on having fun. Whoopee! You might also spend money on children or professional sports. Either way, the cash is flowing!

DAILY CROSSWORD



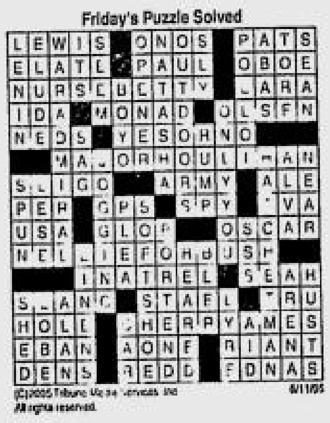
By Josiah Breward
Scranton, PA

6/11/05

ACROSS
1 Half dentures
7 Eye problem
15 Marine mollusk
16 Young ruffian
17 Excessively self-assured
18 Audaciously rude
19 Fill an empty flat
20 "__ Fideles"
21 Weapons buildup
23 Unwanted lip
27 Trajectory
28 Once owned
31 Took a chair
32 Side view
36 Musical sweet potato
38 Changed neighborhood classifications
39 Raspy voiced
40 Comic Coca
41 Brown pigments
42 O.T. book
43 __ Plaines, IL
44 Wrap up
45 Plant stalk
47 Without a paycheck
52 Counteracting agent
56 Country house
57 Deep-fried pastries
60 Wing of a bird
61 Supporter
62 Dodged
63 Bumpkins
64 Take stock of

DOWN
1 Shadow of an eclipse
2 More virtuous
3 Sacred poem
4 Switchback curves
5 In shackles
6 Cunning
7 Reprove
8 Top-rated
9 Discard
10 Large indefinite quantity
11 Irritates
12 Lengthy time period
13 Is able to
14 Explosive letters
20 Gives one's consent
22 Francis or Dahl
24 Flu type
25 __ Catalina Island
26 Remains
28 Position under scrutiny
29 Yearning painfully
30 Thrill-seekers
32 Smug puritans
33 Came across again
34 Endangered layer
35 Obscuring cloud
37 Silver or Howard
46 Hebrew lawgiver
47 Adam and Rebecca
48 Chemist Pauling
49 Slur over
50 Blackthorn berries
51 Abrades to smoothness
53 Fairway warning
54 Run off
55 E-mail button
57 Cheerleader's word
58 Crete's highest peak
59 Bashful
60 Type of soup or shooter

Friday's Puzzle Solved



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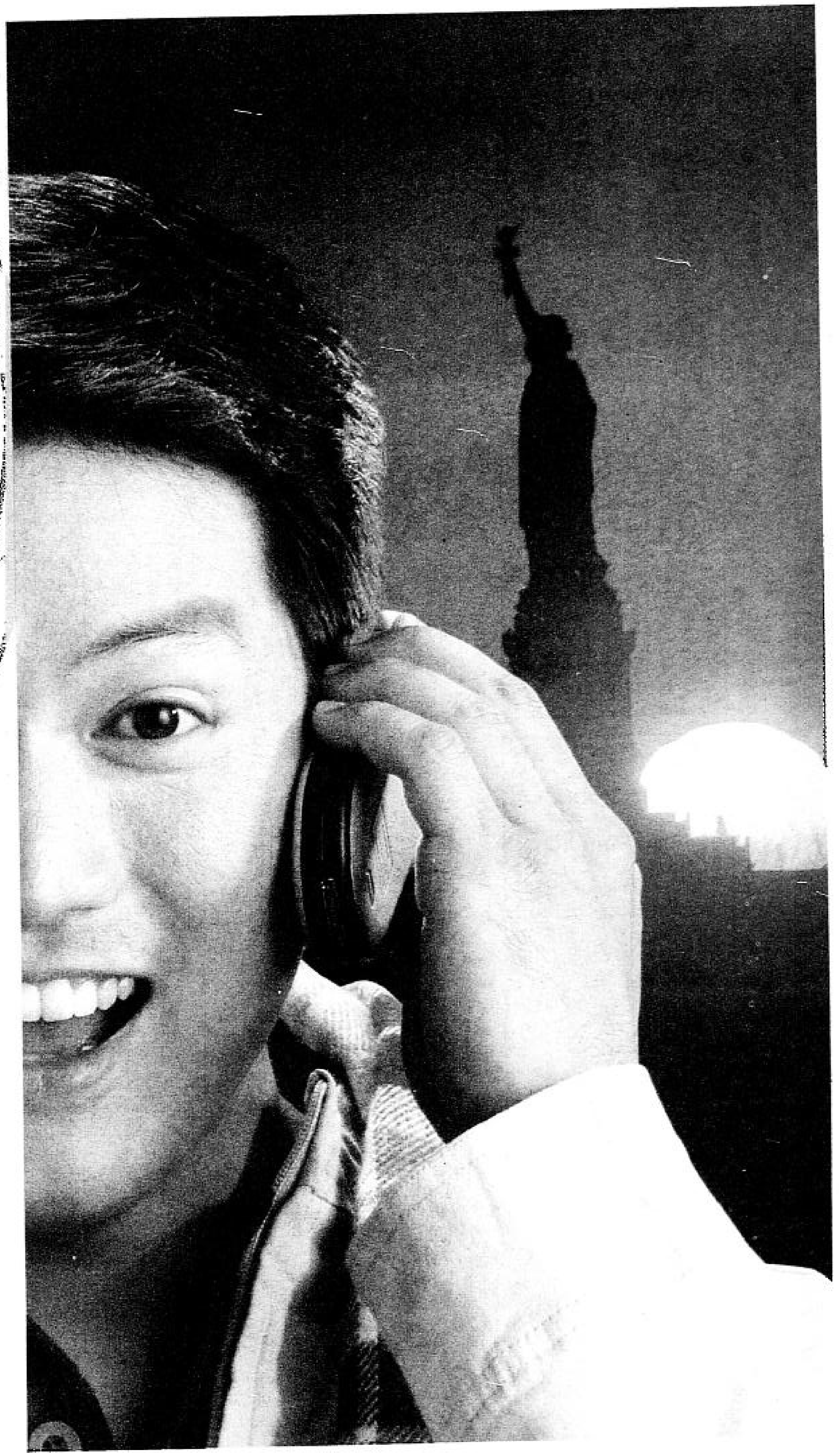

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24/7 SUPER! EVENT GUIDE

Patriotic pursuits

By Paolo R. Reyes and Janine Cuenca-Dario

FOR MANY years, our country labored gracelessly under the long shadows cast by its colorful colonial past. Over the years, however, the influence of the West has slowly waned, supplanted now by a euphoric mood of cultural reinvention and a creative revival of nationalism.

As we celebrate Independence Day tomorrow, two concerts pay homage to our musical heritage and artistry, while a slew of cross-cultural events slated for the coming week is a welcome sign that the scene has become just a bit more sophisticated.

Polysaccharide: The Dollhouse Drama, 6 p.m.

Artist Wawi Navarroza invites us to commemorate our "creative indie-pendence" tonight as she opens her first solo exhibition, Polysaccharide: The Dollhouse Drama, a collection of fine art black and white photographs. 6 p.m. at Blacksoup Project Artspace, Shop 61, Shoe Expo, Araneta Center, Cubao, QC. Singer and pianist Isha performs at 9 p.m., followed by an open mic session for music and poetry. The exhibit runs until July 12. Call 439-8838.

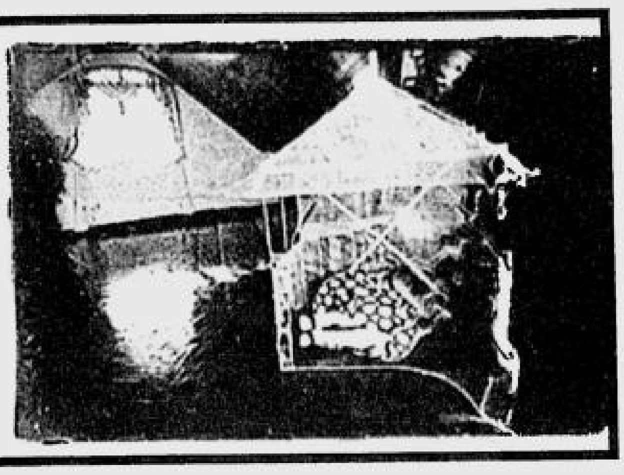
Hillsong's Reuben Morgan concert, 7 p.m.

Reuben Morgan, the prolific Christian singer-songwriter from Australia's Hillsong Church, performs live at the Araneta Coliseum for a one-night only concert which starts at 7 p.m., following a seminar-workshop at 4 p.m. Tickets at P158, P420, P840 and P1,575. Call 911-5555 or (0918) 929-4002.

The Virgin Labfest, June 11 and 12

The theater festival will premiere "untried/untested/unstaged/unpublished works" penned by promising Filipino playwrights. Today, the festival tackles enthnicity issues with Debbie Tan's Fate's Line and Glenn Mas' Rite of Passage. Tomorrow is Pink Day with Vincent de Jesus' Ateng, Lani Montreal's Sister-out-law, and J. Dennis Teodosio's Si GeeGee at si Waterina. 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the CCP Tanghalang Huseng Batute. Tickets at P100. Call 832-3661 or 832-3704.

Bread and Tulips



Independence Day Gala Concert, June 12

The Manila Philharmonic Orchestra observes the country's Independence Day tomorrow with a special concert featuring pianist Oliver Salonga and cellist Victor Michael Coo. The gifted virtuosos are first prize winners of the National Music Competition for Young Artists and winners of various concert competitions in the United States. 8 p.m. at the Philamlife Theater, UN Avenue, Manila. Call 901-7156 or (0918) 737-6901.

SinagTala's Pilipinas Kong Mahal, June 12

SinagTala presents Pilipinas Kong Mahal, an Independence Day concert featuring selected compositions of patriotic composer and conductor Francisco Santiago. 2 p.m., Francisco Santiago Hall, PCIBank Tower I, Makati Avenue cor H.V. de la Costa, Makati. Souvenirs de Filipinas, a CD produced with the help of the composer's descendants, will also be available for purchase. Call 726-1297.

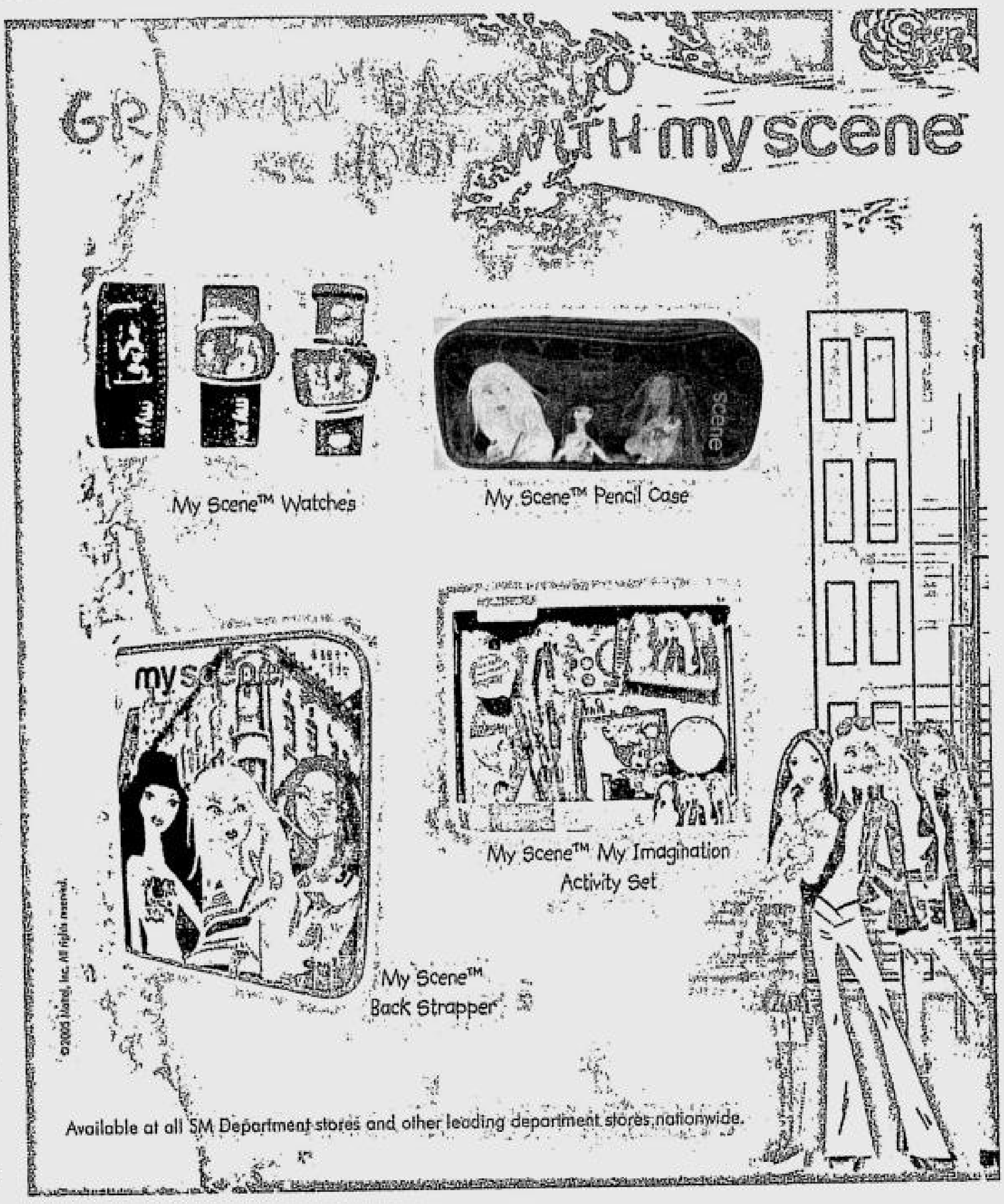
Italian Film Festival: Bread and Tulips, June 14

The ongoing Italian Film Festival will screen Pane e tulipani (Bread and Tulips), the whimsical tale of a neglected wife who finds love and adventure in Venice. 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the CCP Dream Theater, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. Call 832-1125 loc. 1704.

French Spring 2005's Cabaret Night, June 16

Witness a French contemporary circus featuring the street juggling troupe Les Apostrophés, acrobat Camille Boitel, and dancer Marine Broise, together with a host of French and Filipino musicians. Be prepared for an evening of improvisations, ad-libs, and unexpected encounters. 8 p.m., Republic of Malate, 1769 Mabini St.,

PATRIOTIC/ D3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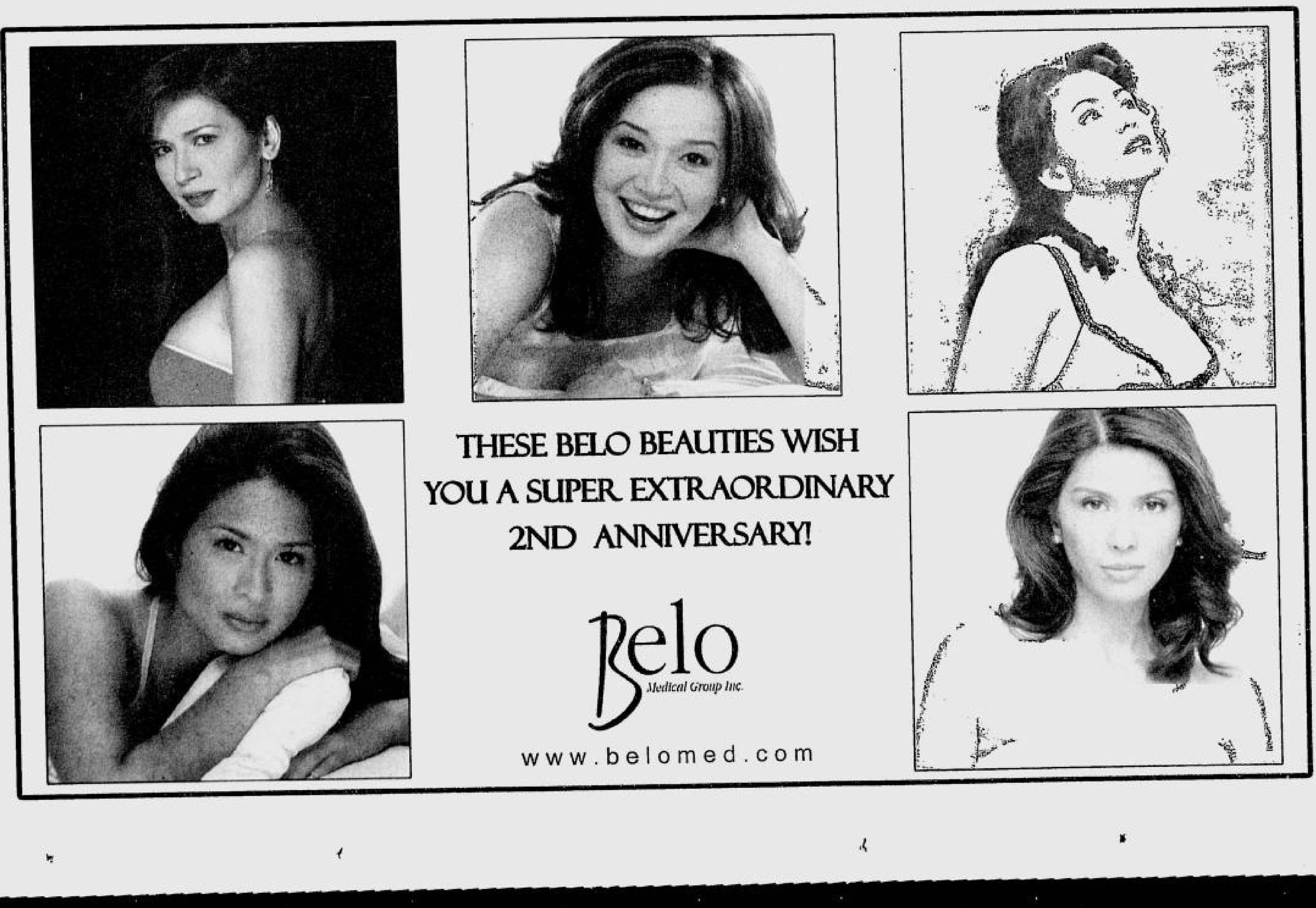


Moisture is the essence of wetness, and wetness is the essence of beauty

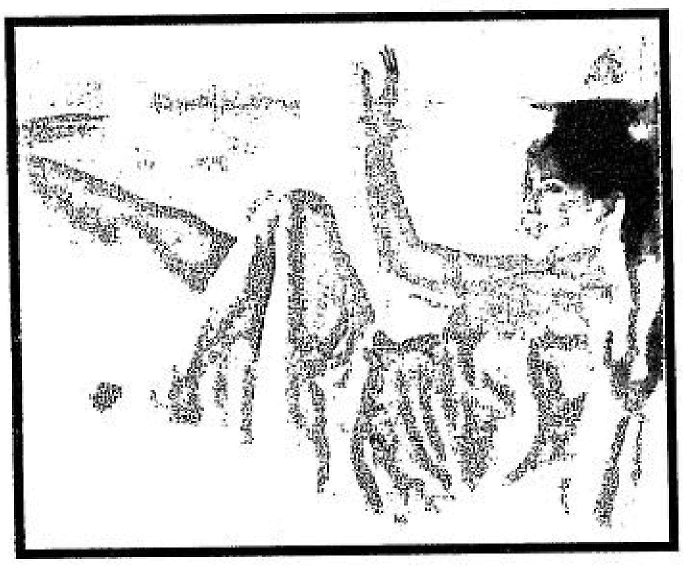


Image master Xander Angeles fulfills his liquid dreams with an exhibit that will leave you drenched

By Pam Pastor

HOW MANY times can you use water as a metaphor?

Many many times—and you'd realize this even more if you talk to photography master Xander Angeles about "Drenched," his latest exhibit.

Xander pays tribute to the very thing that keeps us alive with photographs that are a celebration of life itself. His exhibit of 40 unpublished photos showcase different personalities in various levels of submersion. "I wanted to paint these portraits in a very surreal, abstract and ethereal kind of way... you don't know if they're coming out of another dimension. I was so inspired with shooting underwater. It's the fulfillment of my liquid dreams."

The photos are beautiful, yes they are, but for Xander, they're not just about capturing aesthetics.

"They represent my state of being. I'm taking the plunge into something unknown, I'm diving into something new, something outside my comfort zone."

He's talking about recent developments in his career—his foray into film.

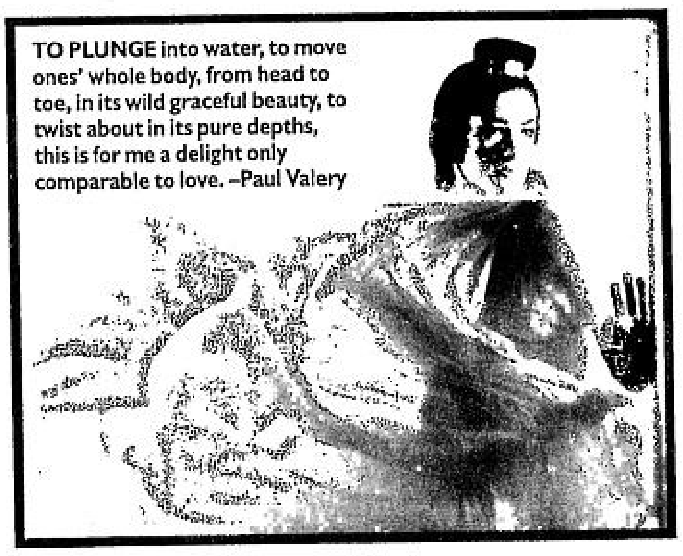
He filmed four commercials in the past month and is set to shoot a movie this year. And that's just the start. He's also going to the US in July to take photographs for a New York-based magazine and has a shoot for another international magazine underway.

"I'm drenched in passion, emotion and inspiration," he said.

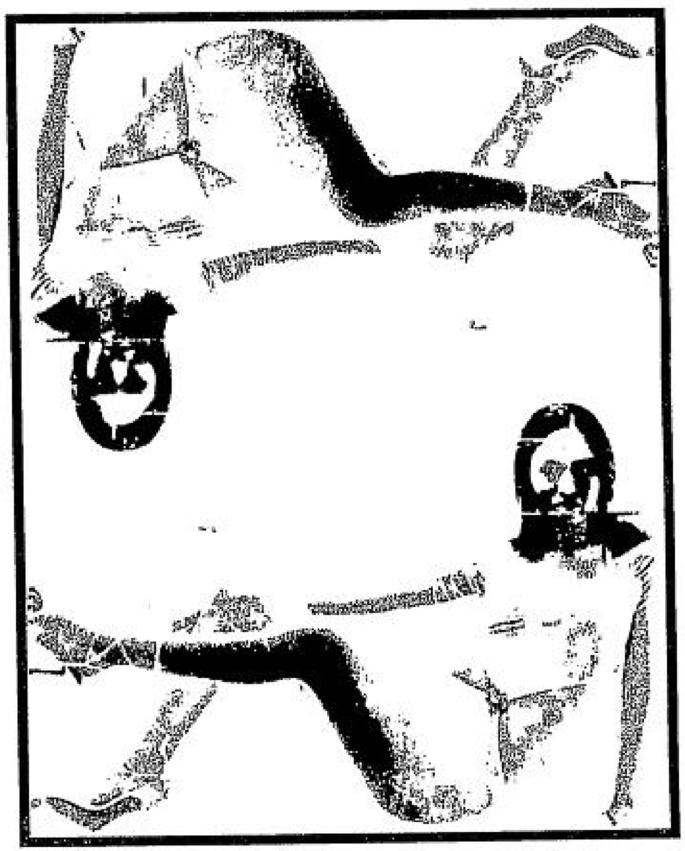
And if you saw his photographs, we think you'd be drenched too.

The exhibit is presented by Epson and sponsored by Fuji YKL and Olympus. Catch "Drenched" at the North Wing of the Powerplant Mall in Rockwell today and tomorrow.

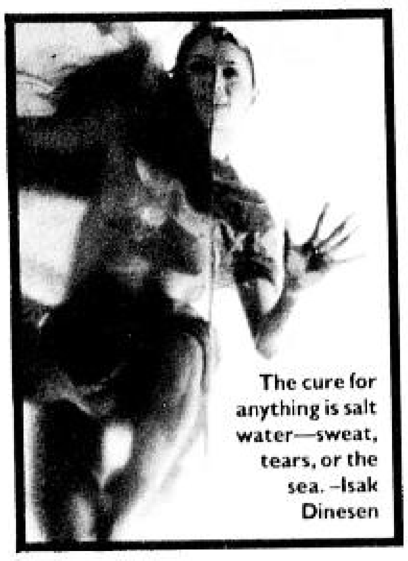
WATER has no taste, no color, no odor; it cannot be defined, art relished while ever mysterious. Not necessary to life, but rather life itself. It fills us with a gratification that exceeds the delight of the senses. –Antoine De Saint-Exupery



TO PLUNGE into water, to move ones' whole body, from head to toe, in its wild graceful beauty, to twist about in its pure depths, this is for me a delight only comparable to love. –Paul Valery

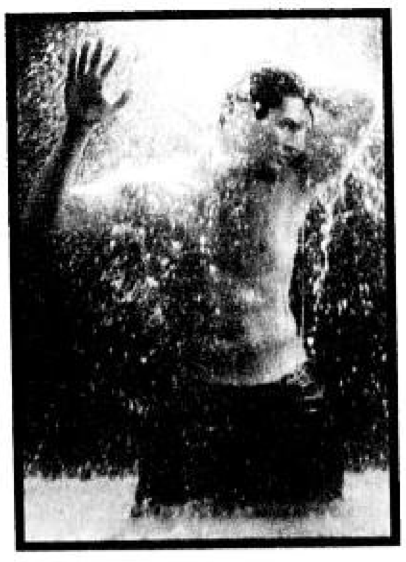


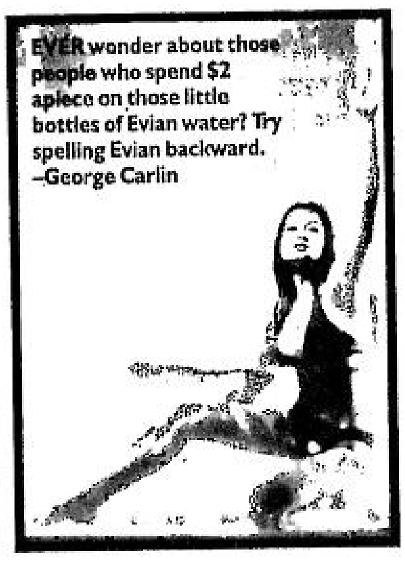
IF THERE is magic on this planet, it is contained in water. –Loran Eisely



The cure for anything is salt water—sweat, tears, or the sea. –Isak Dinesen

I HATE water—fish f*ck in it. –WC Fields





EVER wonder about those people who spend $2 apiece on those little bottles of Evian water? Try spelling Evian backward. –George Carlin

Patriotic

From page D1

Malate, Manila. Admission is free. Call 857-6920.

Other 24/7 Super! events this week:

June 11, Saturday

French Film Festival at Greenbelt 1 Cinemas; Journees Gastronomiques at Alliance Française; Passage des Emboîtés at Greenbelt 3; Kuh Ledesma at Captain's Bar; Dance Deluxe and Soundsgood DJs at Embassy; DJ Patch and Paolo Abaya at Absinth; Dancehall Saturdays at V Bar; DJ Scratchmark at Prince of Jaipur; Anniversary Party at Bed; Kevin Ruiz at Government; DJ Lavz at Bollywood; Kearney Street at Dusit Hotel; Mai Castro at Café Havana Greenbelt; Arriba at Café Havana Malate; Bear Cub at Instituto Cervantes; ETC band at Siete Pecados; Wiseguys and Freeverse at Suburbia

June 12, Sunday

Reggae Mistress at Café Havana Greenbelt; Passage des Emboîtés at Greenbelt 3; Journees Gastronomiques at Tivoli, Mandarin Oriental; Paris Off Color at Greenbelt 3; Maxime Acker exhibit at Alliance Française; French Film Festival at Greenbelt 1 Cinemas; Xander Angeles exhibit at Power Plant Mall, Rockwell; Carlos: Solo Exhibition at Le Souffle, The Fort

June 13, Monday

Le Cordon Bleu chefs at Tivoli, Mandarin Oriental; I Don't Like Mondays! with DJ Ro at Gweilos Makati; Soul Seduction with DJ Patch at Absinth; Acoustic Night at Temple; Sitar Nights with Joey Valenciano at Bollywood; Route 70 at Dusit Hotel; Onda Latina at Café Havana Greenbelt; The Man Who Planted Trees at Glorietta 4 Art Center; Arpie and the Multivitamins at Siete Pecados; Human Race at Suburbia; French Film Festival at Greenbelt 1 Cinemas

June 14, Tuesday

L'Homme de Hus at Onstage Greenbelt; Passage des Emboîtés at European International School; Velvet Party with DJ Scratchmark at Absinth; Sitar Nights with Joey Valenciano at Bollywood; Spirit of '67 at Captain's Bar; Bloomfields at Dish; Mocha and Spin Art at Dusit Hotel; Follies de Mwah at Club Mwah; Guarana at Café Havana Greenbelt; Family Cruz Band at Siete Pecados; Extreme at Suburbia; French Film Festival at Greenbelt 1 Cinemas

June 15, Wednesday

Superklasse with DJs Johnyverse and Mars Miranda at Embassy; Singles Night at Temple; Ladies Night at Prince of Jaipur; Come As You Are: '90s Music at Absinth; Sing India Band at Bollywood; Big Birthdays with Travis Monsod at Bed; Jazz Trio at Captain's Bar; Bernie Uy at Dusit Hotel; Arriba at Café Havana Greenbelt; Guarana at Café Havana Malate; French Film Festival at Greenbelt 1 Cinemas; Arpie and the Multivitamins at Siete Pecados; Ana Fegi and Jimmy Bondoc at Suburbia

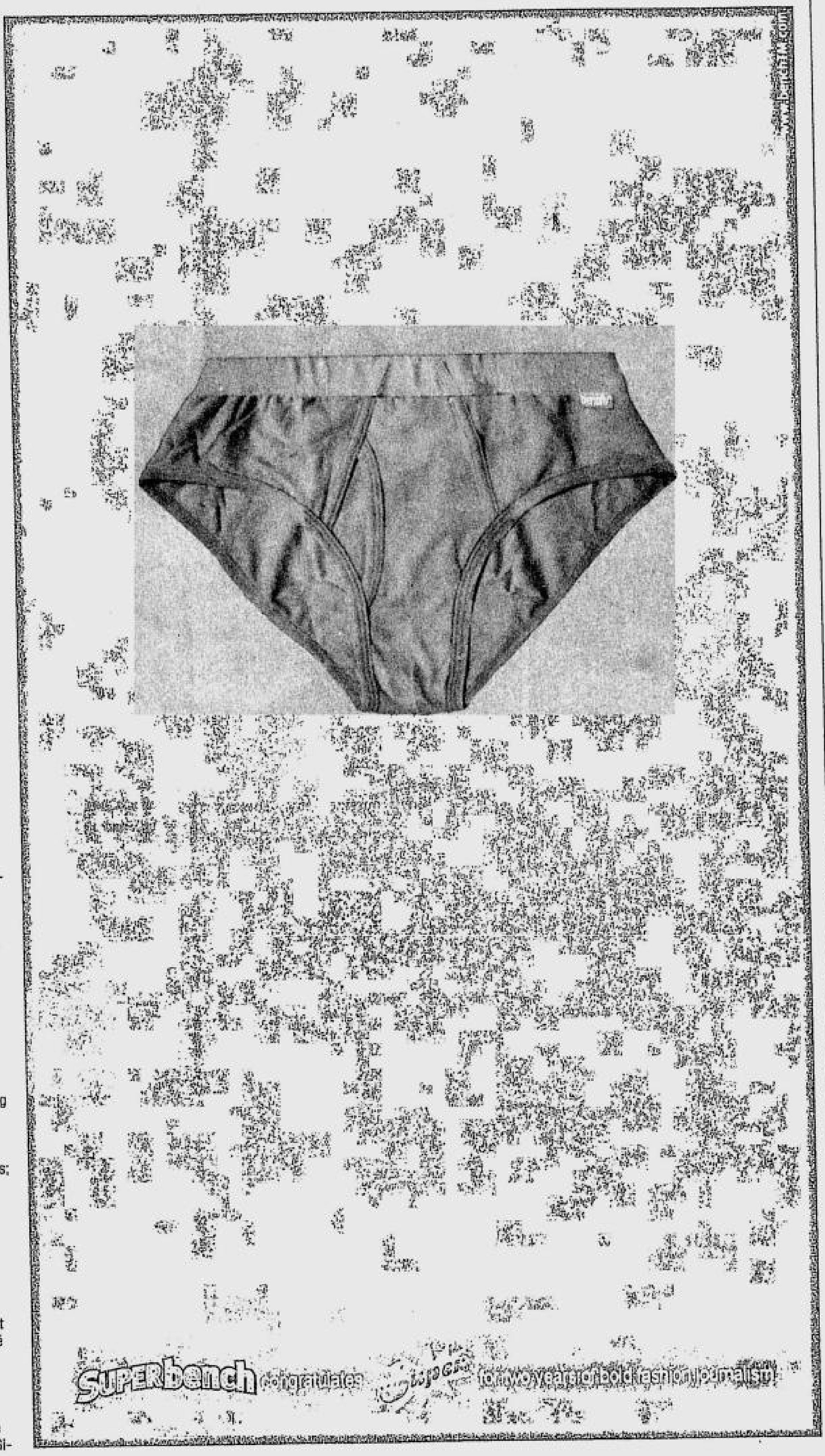
June 16, Thursday

RIDDM with DJ Patch at Absinth; Kuh Ledesma at Captain's Bar; Speed Dating at Government; VEN at V Bar; Phuture Thursdays at Bed; Acoustic Nights at Bollywood; Area 1 at Dish; Myxtreme and Silk at Dusit Hotel; Onda Latina at Café Havana Greenbelt; Reggae Mistress at Café Havana Malate; Family Cruz Band at Siete Pecados; Keystone at Suburbia

June 17, Friday

Decadance with DJ Boyet Almazan at Jill's, The Fort; Musik and CouchLab DJs at Embassy; 80s Giraffe Night with Erick Maniquis at Absinth; Soul Fridays at V Bar; Jive Fridays at Temple; Bam del Valle at Government; Sweetspot Music Night with Sound and Drip at Nicotina; DJ Scratchmark at Prince of Jaipur; Human Race at Dish; Arriba at Café Havana Greenbelt; Mai Castro at Café Havana Malate; Gogo Fridays at Bed; ETC and Millenium at Siete Pecados; Nyoy and Mannos at Suburbia; Passage and K24/7 at Dusit Hotel; Kuh Ledesma at Captain's Bar

Schedules may change without prior notice. For more information and a complete listing of events, text 24/7 through your mobile phone and send to 2949 for Globe and 209 for Smart. Win P1 million, Ipod Shuffles weekly and a Peugeot! Log on to www.mag24-7.com or pick up your free copy of 24/7 Nocturnal Navigator at bars and restaurants around the city. Submit your schedules before Wednesday to e-mail addresses events@mag24-7.com and mag24_7@yahoo.com or fax number 892-0689.



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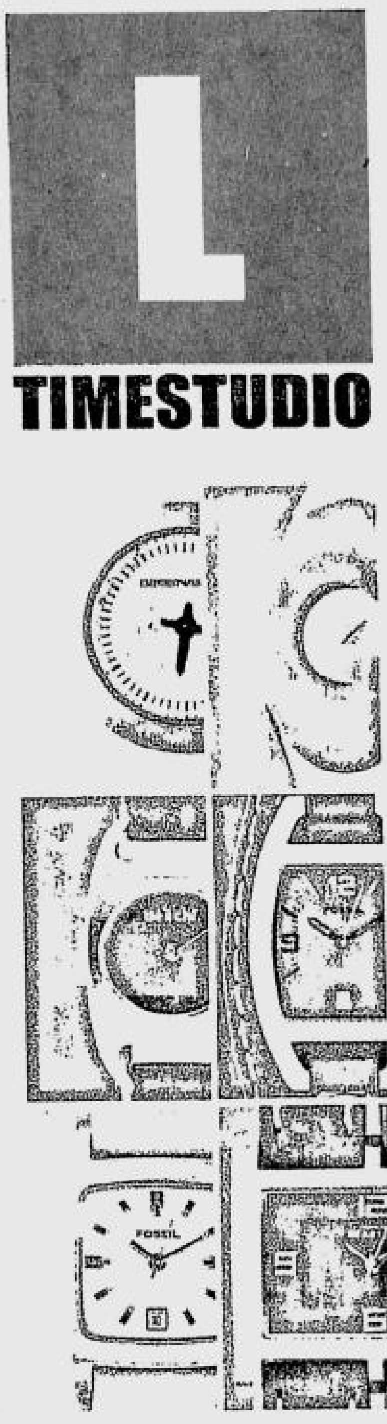

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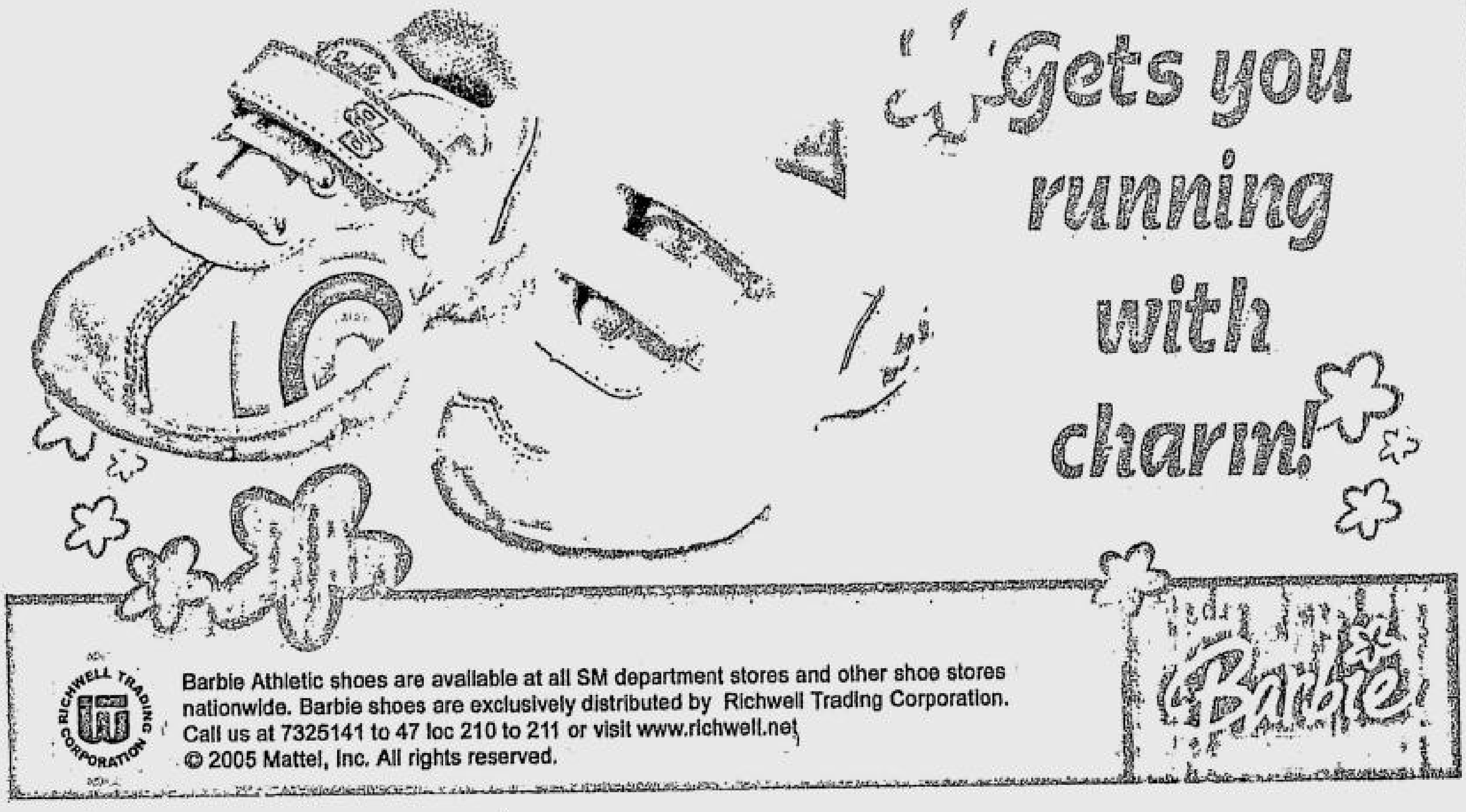

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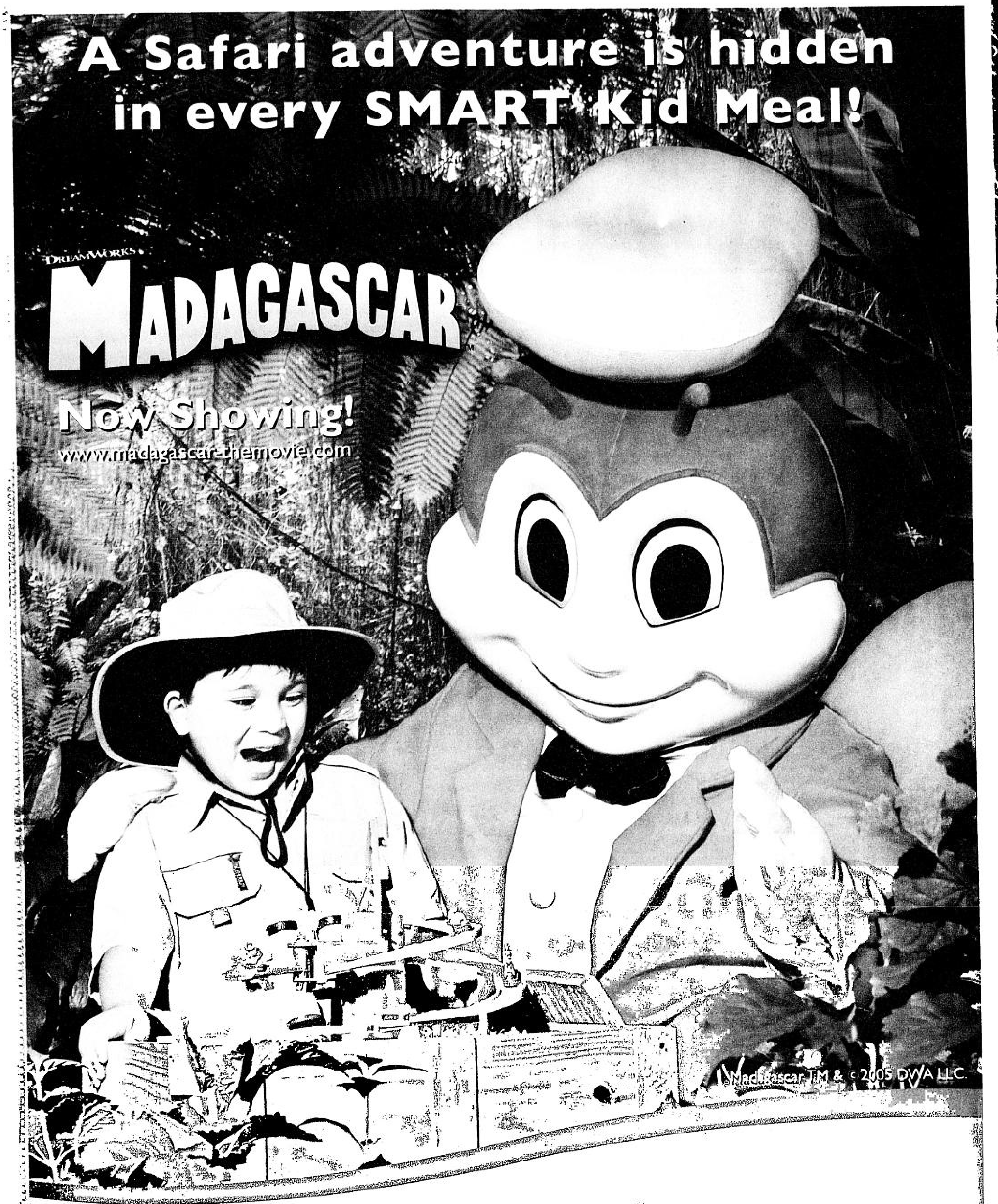
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Did Direk Luigi die a senseless death?

Story on page E2

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Nakaka 'nginiig': the senseless death of Luigi Santiago

No one is safe from violence. Not even you

By Tim Yap

I LEFT Vbar at 3 a.m., thinking that the happening was over. An hour after, I got a text message from Nick Gambino telling me that his brother Luigi Santiago got shot and is now dead.

Apparently, a catfight started inside the bar which the bouncers quickly stopped. The fight continued outside and some guys who were the friends of the girls intervened and it became a free-for-all.

Someone started shooting indiscriminately and took off.

Innocent bystander

Luigi, an innocent bystander, was killed. He had tried to stop the fight and instead had his life stopped. Five other people I know were injured.

It felt weird reading the Metro section of this paper the other day, seeing names of people I had just said goodbye to the night before.

There was Mary Ann, a girl whom I admire for her dancing skills. A bullet went though her knee. There was Thea, the girlfriend of my favorite DJ, who got shot in the thigh. Arnel, who had deejayed earlier that night and was on his way home got hit in his left hip. Charlton, who is everybody's friend got shot in his right foot.

I found myself at Santuario de San Antonio Parish, where the usual party crowd was fully present. This time they weren't in some rave or R&B gathering, they were there to console the family of Luigi, a television director and scene fixture who had touched many lives.

Last respects

It was evident in the people who showed up during the first night of his wake—a mixture of movie and television stars, friends and family who have come to pay their last respects.

The ironic thing is that Luigi Santiago's life revolved around the afterlife. Many knew of his work as director of Studio 23's "Nginiig."

When not pursuing his great passion for directing, he was like any other twenty-seven-year-old—he basked in his success, loved playing this game called "Snaps", hoped for a better future and had great faith in the world and in people.

His Friendster profile, which eerily enough, he last logged into the night before his death, read, "Who I want to meet? Jesus in people."

At the wake, the shock of Luigi's brother Nick obliterated any other feeling I could have felt. My only thought was, "Shit. Shit. Shit."

It was unimaginable—the partygoing set was no longer having fun. A senseless act of violence had ended this particular party.

It's surreal. Every time we hear news about kids in the US bringing weapons to school and gunning their teachers and classmates down, we think, that would never happen here. But it does happen. Maybe not in classrooms but in bars, in the streets, in the public vehicle you just rode yesterday. Not always with guns—with knives, with punches, even with hurtful words.

Anger-infested

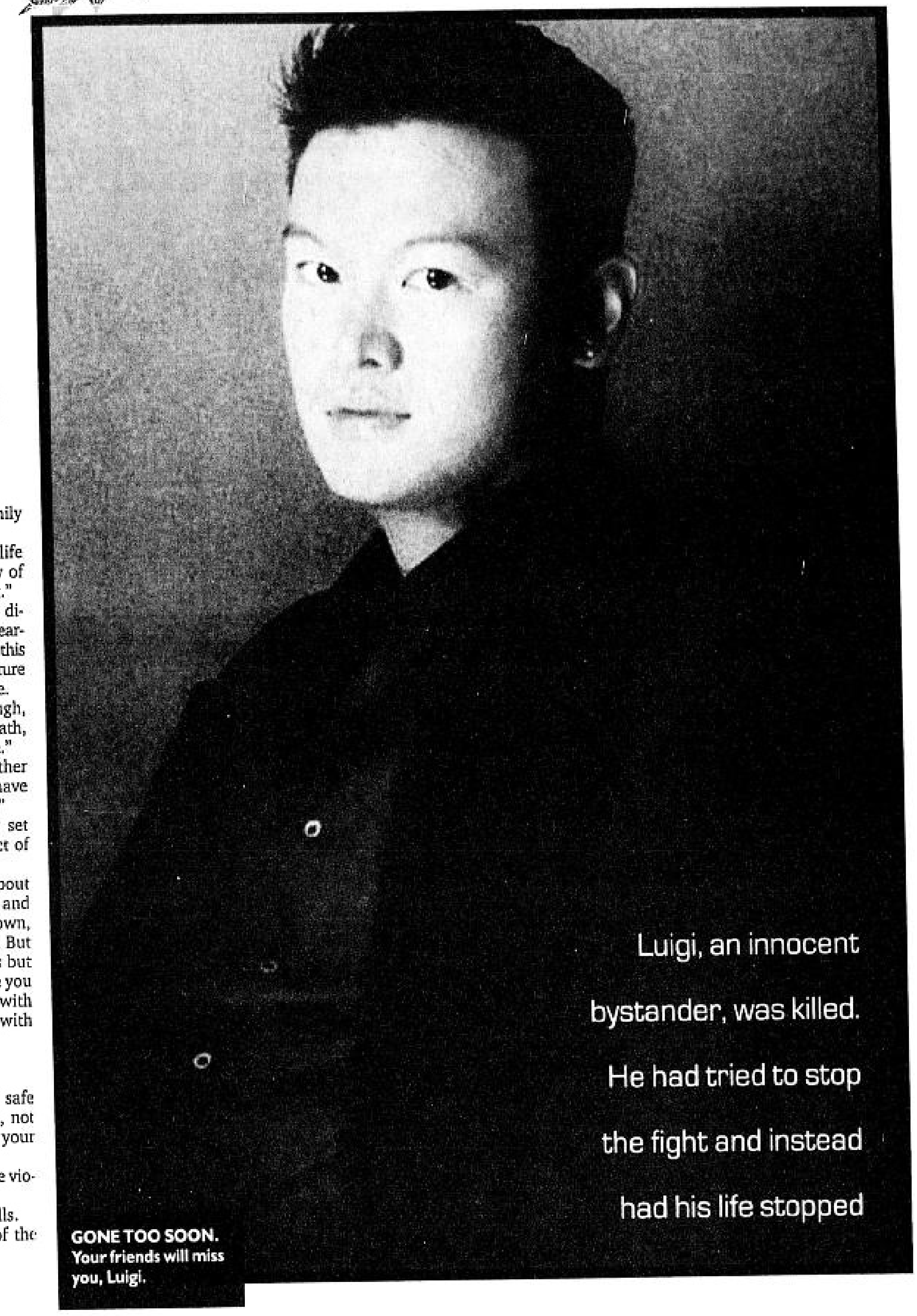
In an anger-infested world, no one is safe from violence. No one. Not movie stars, not students, not artists, not journalists, not your parents, not you.

But you can choose not to be part of the violence.

Anger kills. Hate kills. And violence kills.

You don't have to wait for the rest of the world—it begins with you.

Stop the violence. Stay super.

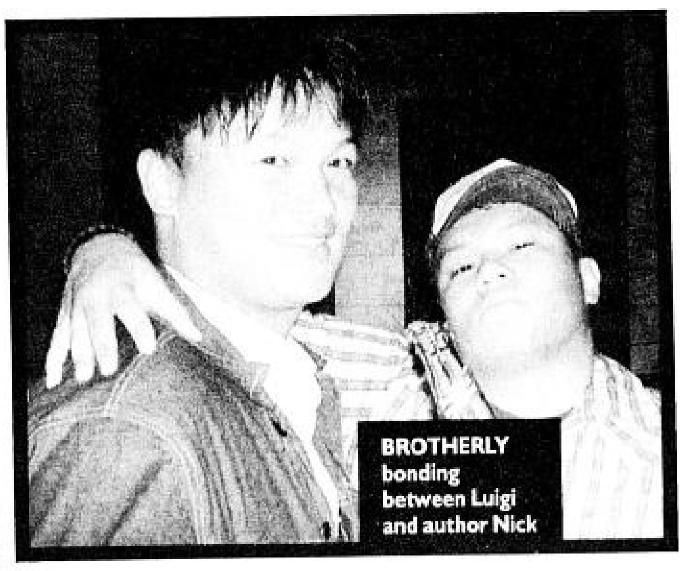


Luigi, an innocent bystander, was killed. He had tried to stop the fight and instead had his life stopped

GONE TOO SOON. Your friends will miss you, Luigi.

Upon losing someone

By Nick Gambino



BROTHERLY bonding between Luigi and author Nick

"I GREW up with this guy."

I cry. And cry. And cry. I hug my brother's cold body and pretend I'm just sleeping next to him.

76.

Sunday. We're visiting my grandmother in the province. She's the last grandparent we have left and her health isn't exactly the greatest. We have to spend time with her. My brother's shoot for the day is cancelled so he actually makes it out. We are sitting on the front porch of her house and I call my brother an ass. An ass because in the Philippines, he's somewhat of a "celebrity." Especially in the provinces.

"You're an ass," I say.

"Why?"

"Cause a 60-year-old woman just walked halfway across town to get you some barbecue because you asked if any was around."

"She's just being nice."

"She's kissing your butt and you're loving it."

He smirks: Ass.

Four hours later, he has enough of the lack of air conditioning—the humidity's so thick it feels like you're walking through pudding. He kisses my grandmother goodbye and we hop in his Beemer and drive back to the city.

It's a long ride home from the province and he had already finished flipping through his "Philippine showbiz" magazines (to look for new talent, he says) so he asks to read the book I'm reading.

"I should have brought a book, too," he says.

I fall asleep to the sound of an oncoming typhoon. He gets a headache from reading in the car. We go to his apartment and he gives me his cell phone. "I just got a new one," he adds. He's always getting new things. He's successful and makes good money. I am successful but I don't make good money. I check out the phone and realize that he's got about 60 pictures of himself on there. And his alarm clock tone is his voice saying "Wake up, c'mon get up" for about 5 minutes.

Narcissist. Typical him.

We play Xbox and he asks me if I want to go to church with him. I decline because I have a birthday dinner to attend. He drops me off at my apartment and he comes up too because he has to kill time before mass starts. Plus, he had to "go number 2." I remember him rushing into my bathroom. I remember that clearly. I have to remember that.

The next day, Monday, he texts me, "Wat r u up 2?" Nothing, I say. No reply back.

Tuesday. He texts me, "Wat r u up 2?" Nothing, I say. Is he doing anything? He doesn't know yet. He'll let me know though.

I spend that evening at an awards show I should not have attended. Later, I bring some balikbayans to a bar just to have a good time. I'm a good kid, though. I know I have work the next day so I leave the balikbayans at the bar. I walk back and get home by 1:30 a.m. I take a shower to wash away the filmy skin of sweat swallowing my body. As I get out, I have two texts on my phone.

Text 1: "Yo, come out to the bar. Wer all her!"—Mark

Reply: "Man, I just came from there, I'm going 2 bed."

Text 2: "Wru?"—My brother

Reply: "I'm in bed already."

I set my cellphone alarm for 8 a.m. I read more of the book that he started reading. I'm 200 pages ahead of him. The pages get blurry. In 15 mintues, I'm fast asleep.

BANG!

I look at my phone. It's 4:30 in the morning. Why is Mark calling me? I silence the phone and go back to sleep.

BANG!

Even on silent mode the phone rattles my nightstand. The buzzing probably even louder than my ring tone. It's Mark again. I reject the call and close my eyes.

BANG!

I start to think. There's only one reason that Mark would call me at 4:30 in the morning when he knows I'm sleeping—he got into a fight. It had better be serious, I think. I call him back.

There are a few things you can say to a person that are guaranteed to make them go crazy and freak out of their minds. You could say, "Your house is on fire!" or maybe "There's a snake under your foot!" or maybe even, "There's an anvil falling from the 20th floor of a building and it's headed straight for your head!"

But the one that's sure to have them ripping their hair out of their heads is this:

Mark: "Dude, stay calm, don't freak out OK, but..."

And the calm response:

Me: "What?! What the F&@K's happening?!"

You can prepare for a worst case scenario to keep you calm and steady. But you'll never know how you'll react when faced with "hell." And hell came in the following words—each one heard one-by-one. Slowly. Like an icicle forming.

GET-TO-THE-HOSPITAL-YOUR-BROTHER-WAS-SHOT.

Then that icicle falls off from the awning of "screw you" and stabs you through the heart. And even in the midst of a tropical summer, when I hear those words, I never feel colder in my life.

In the car to the hospital, I talk to God and try to hold back the tears from my eyes. I tell Him that he can cash-in all my good deeds right now and completely throw away anything I've ever asked for and forget to bless me in the future just to make sure that my brother's okay. My face shivers. My bottom lip shakes. I drive. Air-con off. Windows up.

I park right in front of the E.R. My friend Rich greets me. Greet is an inappropriate word in this situation, because all I hear is: HE'S GONE.

I probably go all telenovela at this part. Knees buckling. Wailing. All that jazz. I don't remember. My friends, who were at the club when my brother was there, are at the hospital. I probably look like garbage because no one says anything to me. Then again, I'd hate to be the one to tell someone that their brother had just been killed.

Then I experience what is probably the hardest thing I've ever been through in my life. I look for my brother. And when I see him, I die. I die into a mess of flesh and inconsolable slop—my friends can't keep me up.

But a minute later, I'm fine. My eyes are dry. I know why. Because I have to call home and tell my parents. This is the hardest phone call I'll ever make in my life.

I hear my mother scream like I've never heard before. I hear my father wail. I've never heard my father wail.

They arrive at the hospital and my other brother (12 years old) lets out a scream so heart-wrenching I'm sure that someone in the hospital suffered a heart attack. He didn't understand. He was just woken up in the middle of the night by his crying parents and brought to a place to see his oldest brother. Dead.

I, on the other hand, am a picture of composure and calm. I provide the hugs and back rubs. Burying my pain and loss deeper with each hand movement. I arrange to have his corneas donated. He's a director after all. He has great eyes.

My younger brother and I rub my brother's arms to keep his body warm. My mother has his head in her arms and talks to him. My father is at his feet. We do this for hours. Family members and friends come and go. And at 8:00 a.m., the alarm on my cell phone goes off. I hear my brother's voice, "Wake up! C'mon, get up!"

I cry. And cry. And cry. I hug my brother's cold body and pretend I'm just sleeping next to him.

They take him to be autopsied. I mean, he was murdered.

I'm home. I have no one to talk to anymore. My eyes are cried out. I have no energy left in my body. So I'm here. Typing.

I answer phone calls from concerned people. I speak to the police about the investigation. They haven't found the shooter yet. Please police. Just put him behind bars. Please.

My fingernails are red as I'm typing on this keyboard. My hands are caked with his blood.

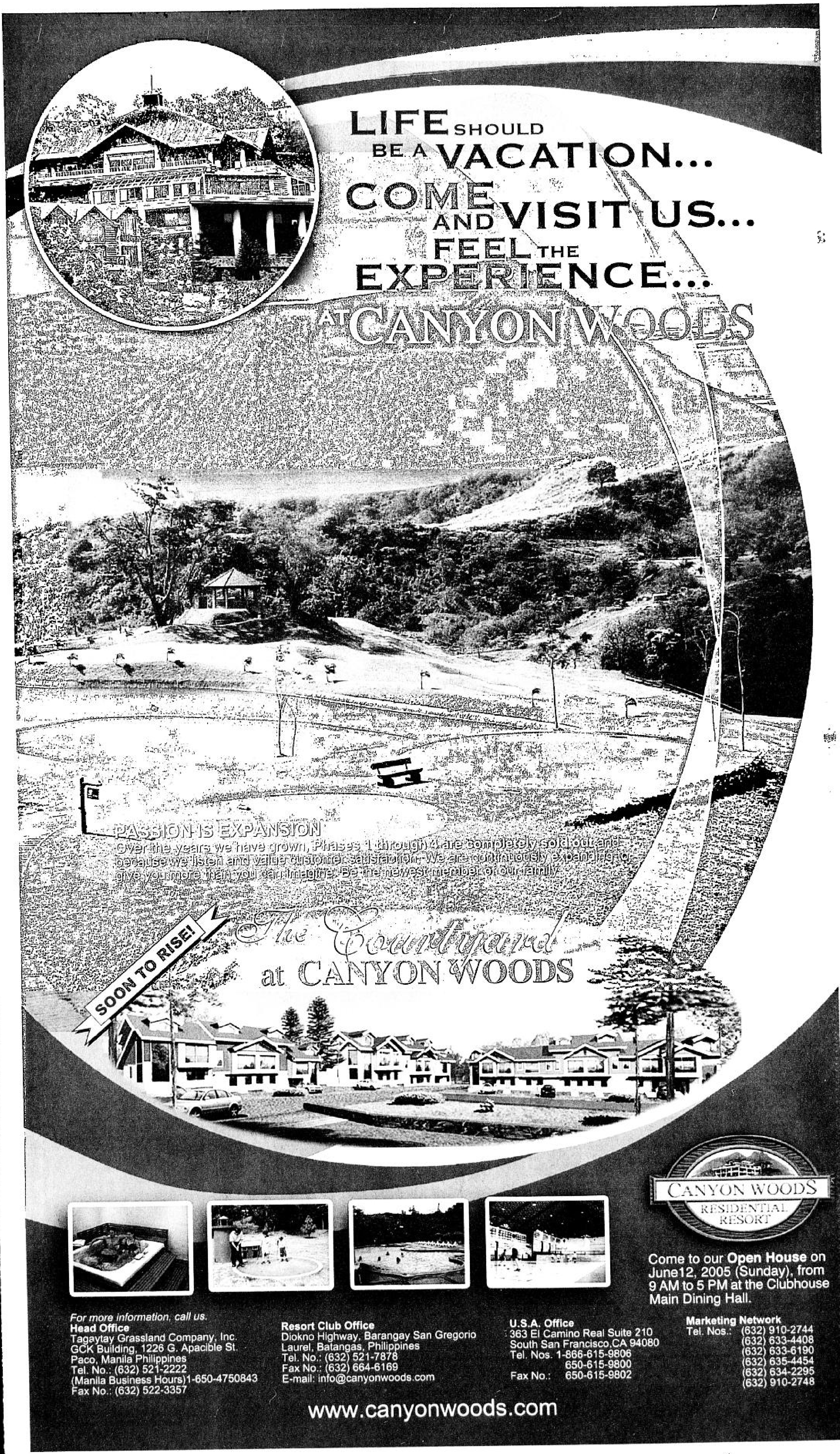
His voice is on my alarm clock. The last book he read but never finished is on my bed. The magazine he browsed through while using my bathroom is still sitting there.

I now know what it's like to have someone close to you die. It's a pain I wish on no one.

He's in a better place now. But he's not here with me.

Luigi. My brother. My best friend.

76. I figure I'll live to that age. But seriously Luigi, how am I gonna go through the next 50 years without you?



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Friends talk about Direk Luigi

JUDDAH PAOLO

Actor, commercial model

[illegible]

NIKKI VALDES

Actress

"I have a lot of good things to say about Direk Luigi but my favorite memory with him was when we were taping an episode for Nginiig at Puerto Azul. It was 2 a.m. *na* and everyone was tired but he kept us awake by playing this mind game called Snaps. He's a major joker but a gentleman as well. While we were playing, he made sure he had our midnight snack ready. I'll miss him a lot for sure."

RICA PERALEJO

Actress

[illegible]

RAFAEL ROSELL

Actor, commercial model

"Direk Luigi was a great friend and director to me. He was very humble and treated his colleagues like his friends. On the set, we were all equal. There was never that typical aura many directors in show biz have—the aura that says "I'm in a higher position than you, so you have to suck up to me and be nice." His unique way of directing and working made me believe that one day, we'll reach the TV/movie quality of Hollywood. He was also an inspiration to me as a Filipino actor, making me believe that us Pinoys can make it to Hollywood someday. Rest in peace, my brother. Let's change "the system." See you when we get there."

ROXANNE BARCELO

Recording artist

[illegible]

JOHN ARCILLA

Multi-awarded actor

"I see Lui as part of the most promising new breed of directors that is about to invade the Philippine film industry. His passion for his work is total, we could even say consummate. He's a cinematographer at heart and he knows what he wants to get from you if you are his actor. You can feel his enthusiasm for work—it's contagious. He is so candid and he's no primadonna. It's so amazing that he can shoot without an OB VAN, he shoots using his own camera—running and jumping with it. He edits his own work and yet, he is a team player. He is very generous.

It's so painful that somebody in his prime and is about to share a wonderful gift was cut off just like that. Our industry would have benefited from the realization of his dream.

Go on, Direk Luigi. We love you. Your memories and examples will always be alive in our hearts."

PINKY AMADOR

[illegible]

[illegible] I know Luigi would rather tell his Hollywood Dream family to "never stop dreaming."

MONICA LLAMAS

Stage actress, Bayo image model

"He knew how to have fun but he always kept his focus."

Levi's® 501®
SCARRED & PROUD PROMO

May 7 to June 19, 2005
All Levi's® Stores and outlets nationwide
(factory outlets not included)

501® SCARRED & PROUD PROMO
SCAR THIS

Promo Mechanics:

1. Buy a pair of Levi's® 501® jeans or any Levi's® jeans (minimum of Php 2,500 single receipt purchase) from May 7 to June 19, 2005 at any Levi's® store or outlet nationwide (factory outlets not included).
2. Get a Scar & Win card and get a chance to win one of the following prizes instantly:
   a. Limited edition Levi's® denim notebooks
   b. Levi's® Php 501.00 worth of gift certificate
   c. Apple iPod mini (4 gigabytes in 4 different colors: silver, blue, pink or green)
3. Also, customers who won an instant prize are invited to join the search for the Best Scar Story nationwide.
4. All entries must be unpublished and must not have won in any previous contest.
5. All entries must be typewritten in English.
6. Stories should not contain any offensive and/or obscene words.
7. Stories must not exceed 1,000 words.
8. Customers can send in more than one entry but can only win once.
9. Each entry should be submitted with a proof of purchase (official receipt worth a minimum of P2,500 single receipt)
10. For each entry, contestant must indicate the following information on a separate sheet of paper: Name, Address, Contact Number/s, Email Address, and affix signature enclosed in one white legal sized letter envelope and submitted to any Levi's® store or outlet nationwide or mail to Momentum, 34th Floor GT Tower, 6813 Ayala Aveue cor. H.V. Dela Costa Sts. Makati City, 1277 Philippines.
11. The five (5) Best Scar Stories will be chosen and winners will receive a pair of the Levi's® 501® Scarred Limited Edition jeans.
12. Each of the five (5) Best Scar Stories will be published on line at www.levi.com.ph.
13. Non-winning entries will be kept by Levi Strauss Philippines for filing and will not be used or published in any form.
14. Deadline for Submission of Entries is end of business hours on June 10, 2005.
15. Winners will be chosen on June 30, 2005, 10 am at the Momentum office, 34th Floor GT Tower, 6813 Ayala Avenue cor. H.V. Dela Costa Sts. Makati City, 1277 Philippines.
16. Stories will be judged according to the following criteria:
    a. Content 50% - Originality and clarity of story
    b. Style and tone 30% - Way story was written and delivered
    c. Composition 20% - Structure and organization of thought
    Over All 100%
17. The panel of judges will be composed of representatives from Levi's Philippines, Momentum-McCann Erickson Philippines and Independent personalities.
18. Prizes are non-transferable and not convertible to cash.
19. Taxes for prizes above P10,000 will be shouldered by Levi Strauss Philippines, Inc. 2.
20. Redemption period shall be 60 days from receipt of notification.
21. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification shall be forfeited in favor of Levi Strauss Philippines, Inc. 2 with prior approval from DTI.
22. Winners will be notified via telephone and registered mail.
23. They can claim their Levi's® 501® Limited Edition Scarred jeans by presenting at least one valid ID and the registered mail at the Levi Strauss Philippines Inc. 2 office, 20th Floor, Tower 2, the Enterprise Center, Ayala corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City during office hours Monday to Friday, between 9am to 6pm (for Luzon winners). Telephone no: 889-9301.
24. For Cebu winners, they may claim their Levi's® 501® Limited Edition jeans at the Levi's® Cebu office at Unit 201, CRM Building, Escario corner Molave Sts., Lahug Cebu City. Tel nos: (032) 233-6501 to 02.
25. For Mindanao winners, they may claim their Levi's® 501® Limited Edition Jeans at the Levi's® office, Door 1, Cocolife Building, CM Recto corner Palma Gil Sts., Davao City. Tel no: (082) 221-0307
26. For more information, they may contact their nearest Levi Strauss Philippines offices in GMA, Cebu and Davao.
27. Promo period is from May 7 to June 19, 2005 only.
28. Levi's® employees, partners and suppliers, their advertising and PR agencies, dealers and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity of affinity are disqualified from the promo.
29. PER DTI-NCR Permit No. 1168 Series of 2005.

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The double life of a wordsmith

The fever, the men, the lies, and the secrets of a reluctant 'writer'

AVOIDING people used to be so much easier before.

All I had to do was shut off my mobile phone for a day, and hope that the time lapse would deflect any unwanted calls or text messages coming in. It used to be the perfect excuse: "You called? Sorry, my phone was off. Too bad I didn't get the invite to your all-you-can-eat vegetable dinner party last night. Must've been…leafy-good."

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

It's a bit more complicated these days. With call-back features and funky windows constantly popping up on your computer screen while you're online, it's not that easy to convince anyone anymore that you didn't receive their message.

I was recently faced with this precarious situation after a not-too-favorable second date. He entrapped me with the dreaded question, "Why aren't you taking my calls?" So I had to resort to either one of two options: A) telling this person to his face the simple truth, that though he was damn good looking, I don't usually savor the company of anyone who spits outside my car window, urinates outside a restaurant or thinks Mandarin is a Japanese dialect. Or B) blatantly lying to him by saying that I've been assigned to cover the price increase of corn in Bolivia. Oh, wait, there's a third option: willing myself to get sick and bedridden with a high fever. So I chose the most logical alternative: I willed myself to get sick and bedridden with a high fever. It was so much easier than telling the painful truth or telling an outright lie. (And by Jupiter's moons, I realized it was the best excuse for avoiding people.)

When telling people the truth isn't always a beautiful thing.

It's no strange irony that for someone whose main preoccupation is balancing the equations of words, I have such a hard time telling people to their faces exactly what I think. Scratch that—when push comes to impale, I actually do have a knack for telling people to their faces exactly what I think. More than a few times that had ended up really ugly, like covered in tears and mucus ugly. That is precisely why I'm afraid of face-to-face confrontations that end up as a battle of honest words: for if they be knives, I know exactly which ones to throw. And really, it sucks hurting people that way, even if what you've said out loud was the honest truth.

Of course, I'm not always entrenched in unfriendly confrontations. There are times that call for the biting of the tongue, or the coating of words to make them more digestible. Yet many times I find those moments to be just as ugly, for even as the victim doesn't end up covered in tears or mucus, they end up swathed in artificial sugar. And we all know what too much artificiality can do to you.

That is why I often will myself to get a fever. The fever of writing. For I've found writing to be so much more honest than talking or keeping silent.

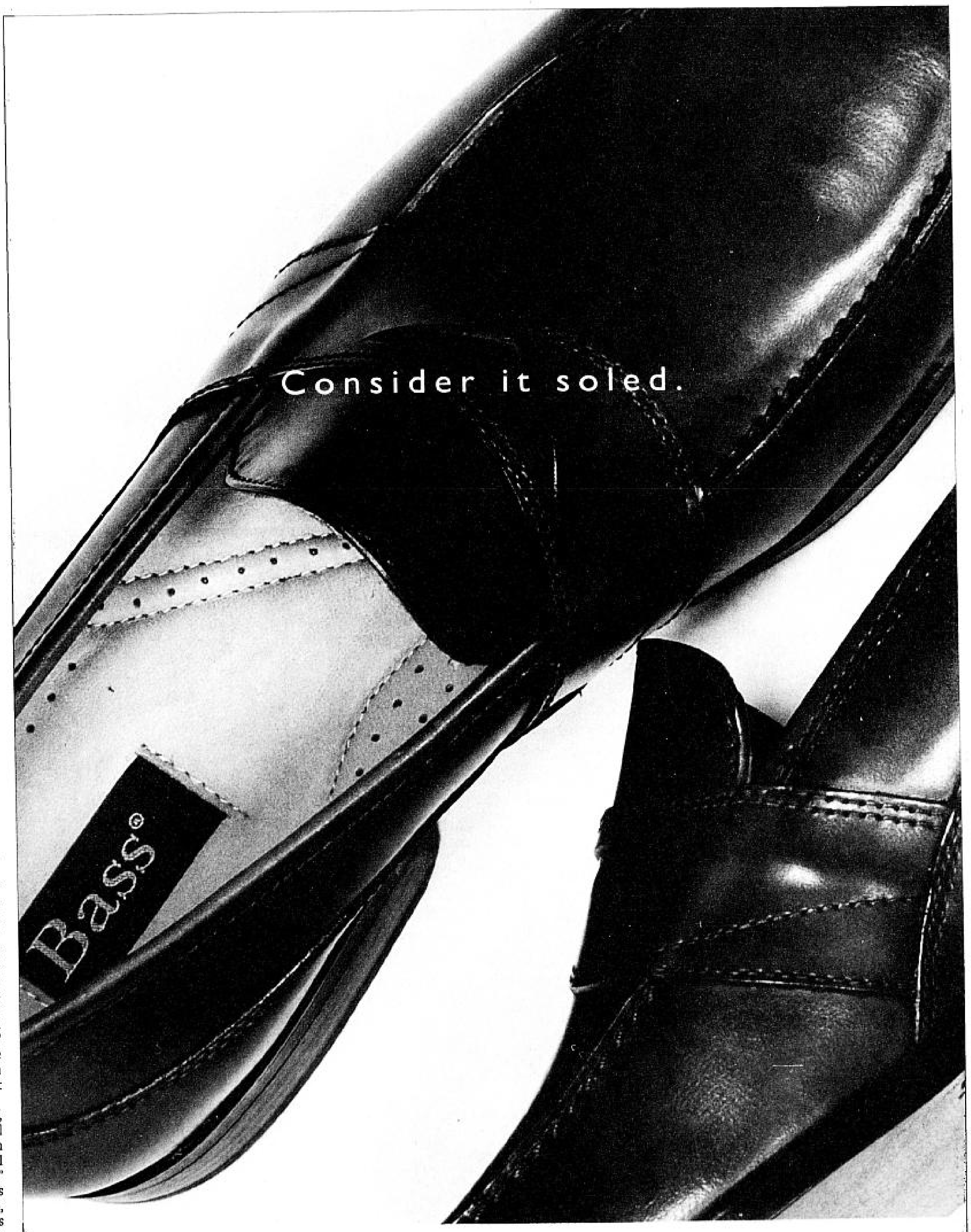
How I stopped recoiling at the title "writer."

I've had this fever for practically my whole life, but naturally it's only been these past two years with Super! that I've had a lot more people asking about my incurable ailment. (As of late, I'm up to a total of five fans now, including my mother. Hooray!) I absolutely relate with what my (South) American idol Gabriel Garcia Marquez once wrote: "I can be useful until I'm a hundred years old if I can write. My subject is life and the subject gets larger the longer I live." Scratch that, I liked even better what he shared in his autobiography, "Vivir Para Contarlo": "If you can imagine life without writing, you're not a real writer."

This is how I eventually came to call myself, without flinching, a "writer." I used to just tell people who ask me what I do (at least when I'm not watching marathons of "Lost") that "I write." For when I think of the word "Writer," what comes to mind is the exclusive, badass membership of Dumas, Tolkien, Eco, Calvino, Garcia Marquez, Salinger, Rizal and de Quiros to name a few. To call myself a "writer" was something I thought reeked of pretentiousness, or presumptuousness that I could be filed under the same general category as those greats, whom I refer to as the men in my life.

I've wondered often enough: do real artists call themselves "Artists," or truly talented poets write "Poet" in their résumés? It wasn't so much that I required the endorsement of the general reading public, but more like I needed the approval of my harshest critic: myself. Just as a musician cannot possibly think of living without music, or an artist cannot live without creating something beautiful, the

THE DOUBLE/ F3



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Shangri-La Plaza • Robinsons Galleria • Robinsons Place, Manila • Festival Supermall
The Podium, SM Keppel • SM Baguio • Ayala Cebu • Gateway Mall, Araneta Center
Rustan's Makati

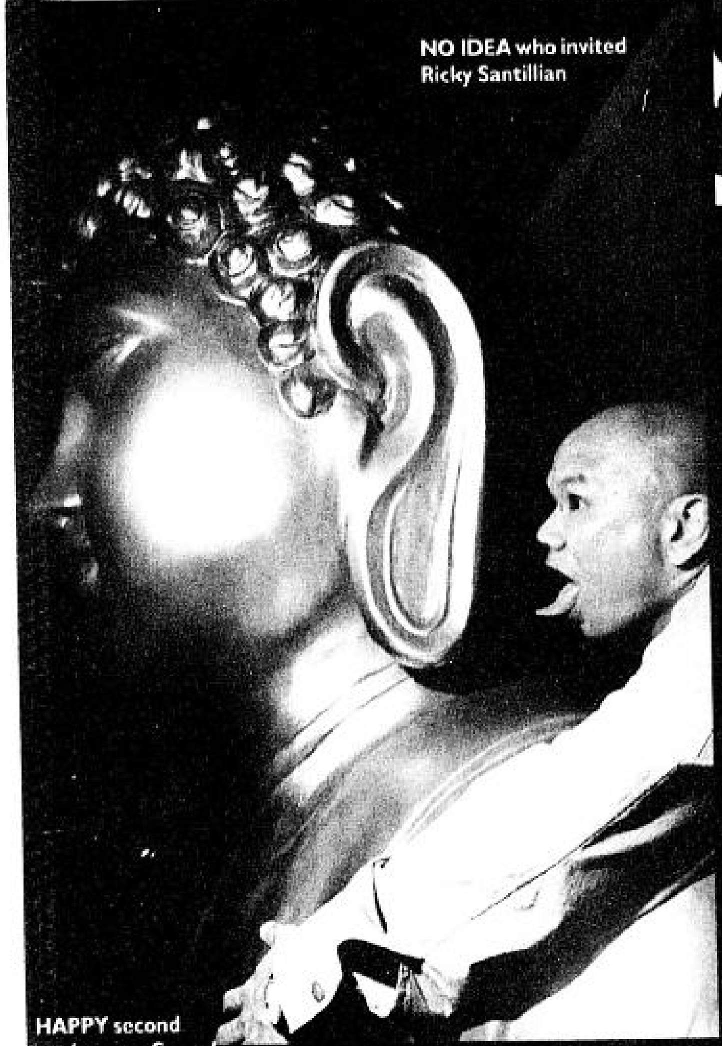
TANKE Tankeko receiving one of several awards

MITCH So was delighted about her award

MELVIN Mangada telling me to take my camera and...

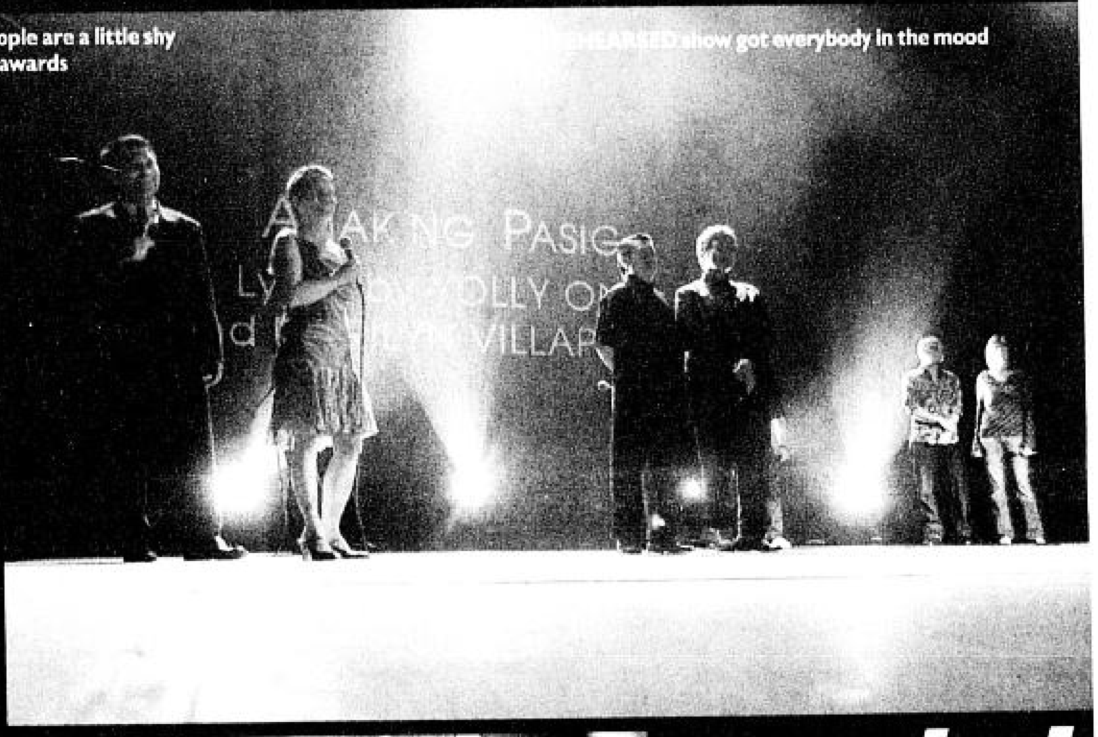
VISITING special speaker Paul Prince from New Zealand

ADVERTISING legend David Guerrero was also inducted into the hall of fame



NO IDEA who invited Ricky Santillian

SOME people are a little shy receiving awards



HEARSED show got everybody in the mood

HAPPY second anniversary Super!

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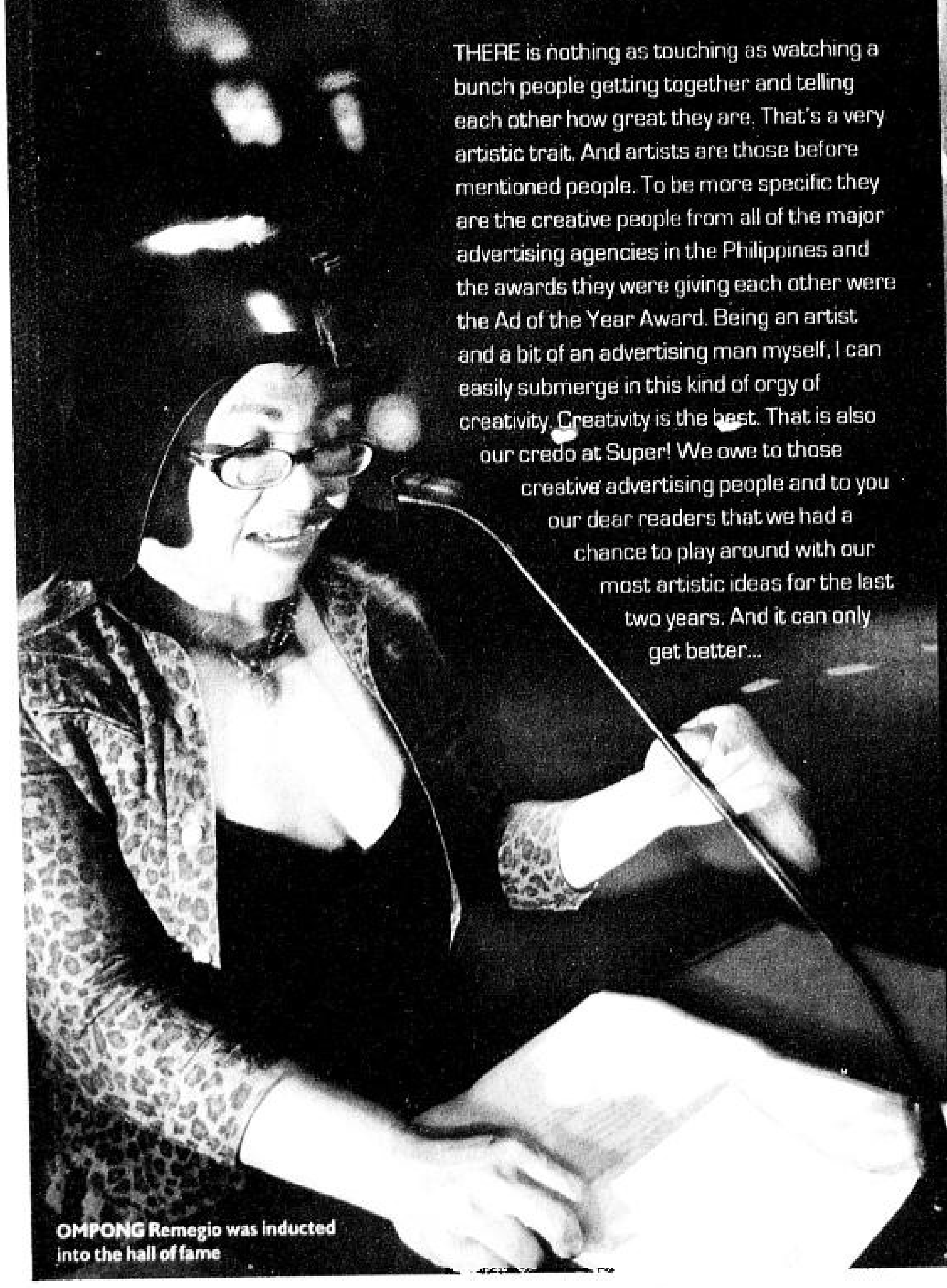
The creative guilty are getting awarded

THERE is nothing as touching as watching a bunch people getting together and telling each other how great they are. That's a very artistic trait. And artists are those before mentioned people. To be more specific they are the creative people from all of the major advertising agencies in the Philippines and the awards they were giving each other were the Ad of the Year Award. Being an artist and a bit of an advertising man myself, I can easily submerge in this kind of orgy of creativity. Creativity is the best. That is also our credo at Super! We owe to those creative advertising people and to you our dear readers that we had a chance to play around with our most artistic ideas for the last two years. And it can only get better...



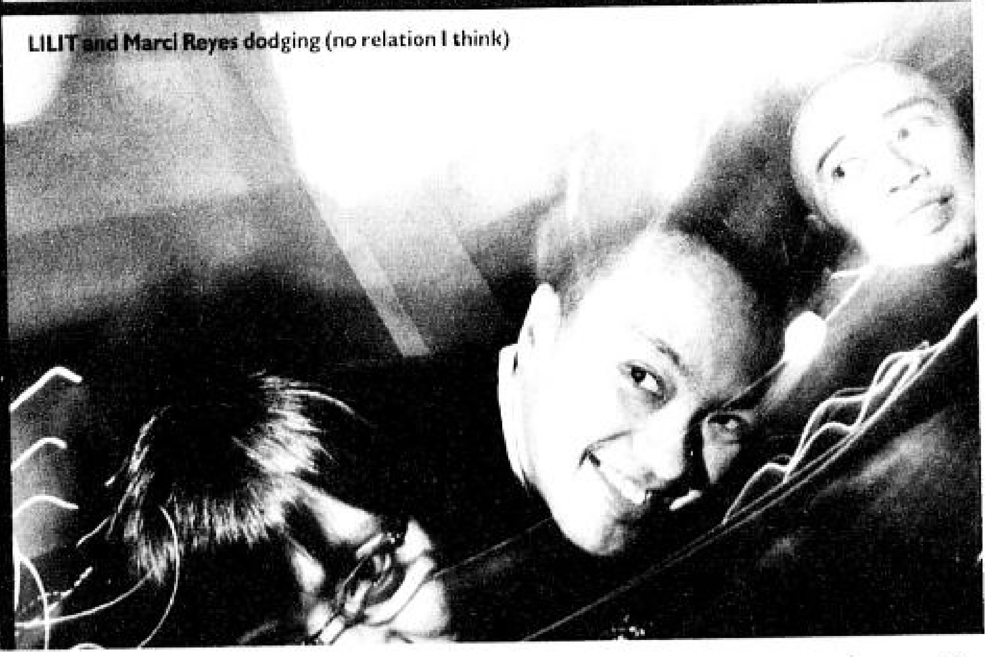
OMPONG Remegio was inducted into the hall of fame

MARCH Ventosa saw everything through a pink haze

McCann Erickson won several prices

LILIT Reyes is one smooth charmer

ALEX Arellanno came back for awards more than once



LILIT and **Marci Reyes** dodging (no relation I think)

The double life of a wordsmith

From page F1

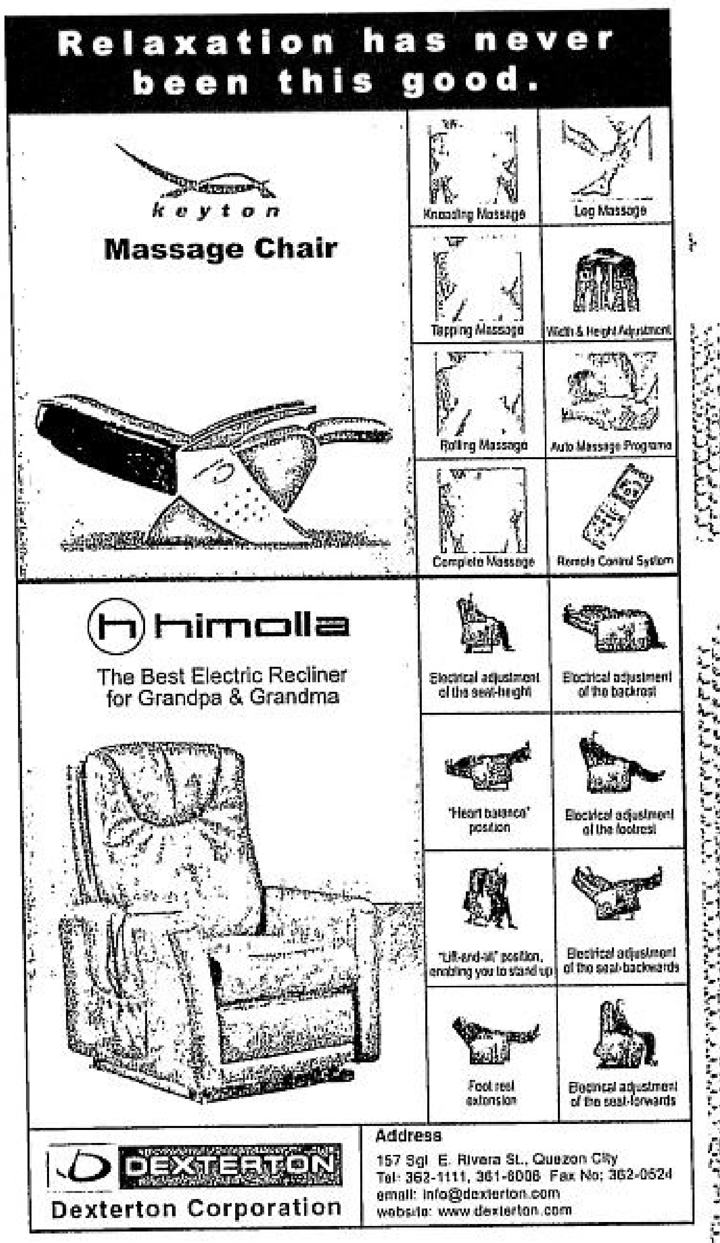
moment I imagined life without writing and only saw in my mind's eye an unhappy girl…I knew I was a born writer.

When a fertile imagination is not dishonesty.

The first story had to do with a green light outside my window. That was a long, loooong time ago. I was still a little kid deprived of sleep in the midnight hour. Suddenly, an eerie green light had flashed for a creepy second outside my room. It was enough to strike a real terror inside me, so I ran crying to my father. Instead of telling me that the green light was either something I had dreamt of or that it was from the headlights of a passing car, my father told me… to write about it. To write a story for myself. It was his remedy to allay my fears. That was my very first, and perhaps my very best, lesson in writing.

I wrote a story that I wanted to read. It was honesty in its most organic sense as I tried to capture the very real emotions, the genuine fear, that I felt. It was honest because in the story, there came alive the fireflies and green ghosts and tree fairies that I believed to be part of my world back then. It was indeed the most liberating feeling; my first taste of real freedom.

Okay, so "The Green Light" may not have been a bestseller; there were simply not enough copies in print (that one copy of stapled notepad pages were read only by my two adoring fans, my mom and dad). Still, if there was ever a time that would stand out in my life when I thought of myself as a true writer, it was, and still is, that moment. Writing about that green light I saw Out the Window.



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Celebrate 10 Super! years of Preview

WE'RE not the only ones celebrating an anniversary.

Ten years ago, Leah Puyat, Raymond Lontok and Myrza Sison realized a vision to bring the most innovative styles to non-conformists looking to satiate their hunger for artistic dressing with a hip, young fashion magazine which also serves as a vehicle for a new generation of artists seeking creative expression. Former Preview Editors Kitty Go, Tara Santos and Anton San Diego were among the individuals who helped make Preview what it is now. Now, with Pauline Suaco-Juan at the helm, Preview continues to cultivate personal style, encouraging hip, young Manila to be fashion forward.

Flip through a decade of fabulous features, stunning images and the brightest talents in the Philippine fashion scene in Preview's 10th Anniversary Special. Packed with over 80 pages of fashion & beauty editorials, it's their biggest issue ever! Check out Manila's 100 IT list—the most happening women to watch out for.

And what's a birthday without a blowout—they're giving away prizes from Bottega Veneta, Kate Spade, Gucci, Prada, Tod's and YSL. Two ladies will win a P20,000 shopping spree at VNC!

Get your copy which features Bea Alonzo, Iza Calzado, Alessandra de Rossi, Anne Curtis, Mariel Rodriguez, Bianca Gonzalez, Olivia Daytia, Maike Evers, Kat Alano and Cheska Garcia. The limited edition of Preview, encrusted with Swarovski crystals, is now available in magazine stands and bookstores at P100.

SuperFerry, truly a happy trip!

SuperFerry launched its new generation vessels – 12, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 – the newest and most modern in the SuperFerry fleet, to answer the increasing demand of the leisure-travel market. More than ever, these vessels promise a happy trip!

Now, SuperFerry further strengthens its relations with suppliers and agents to boost domestic tourism, which targets the family, young professionals and students, as well.

Sail Away to your dream vacation onboard the SuperFerry!

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Enjoy a vacation that combines the pleasure of a SuperFerry journey and the excitement of the islands through the Sail Away packages!

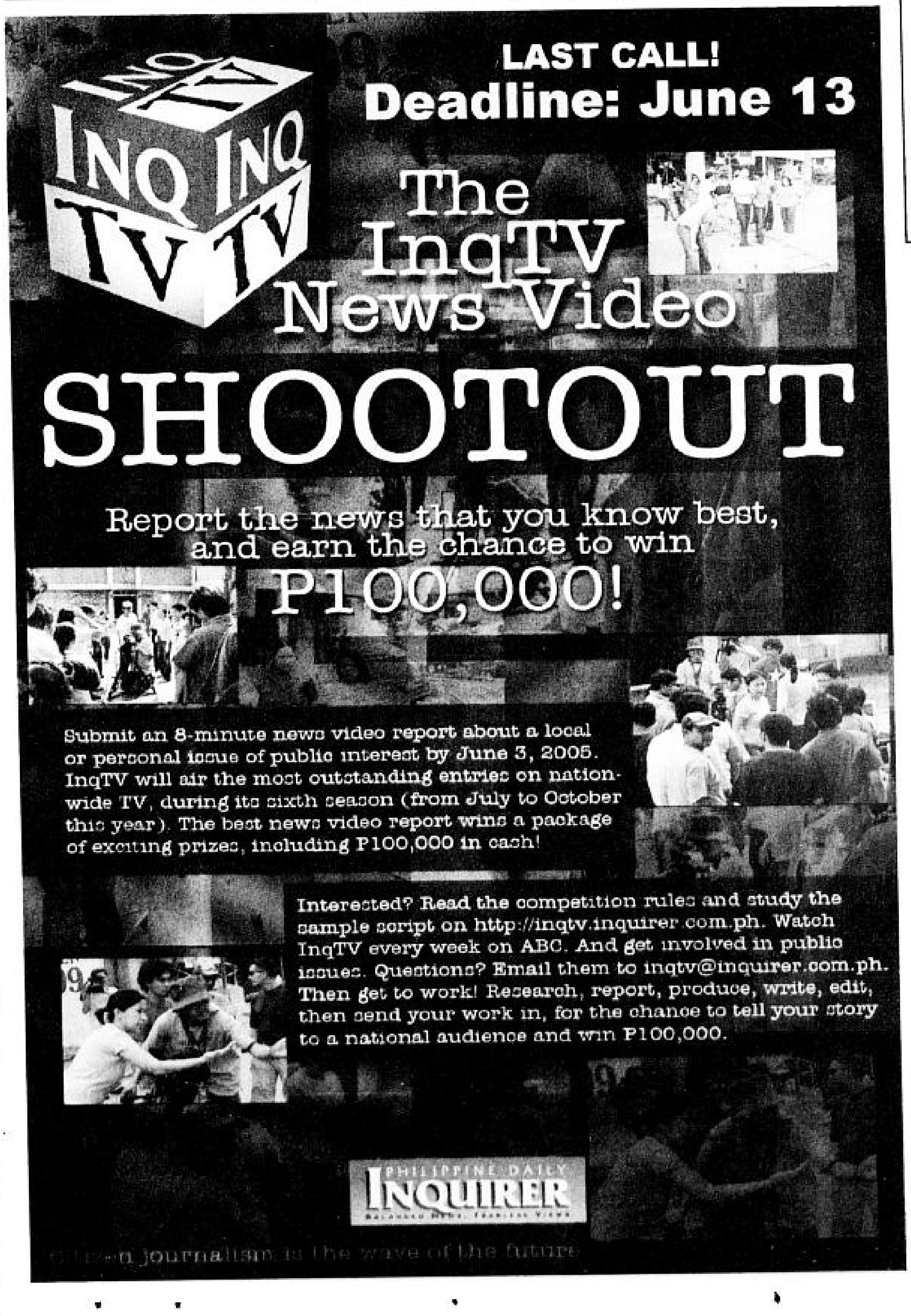
Maintaining its success, SuperFerry continues to offer special tour packages, with a seafare that is inclusive of hotel accommodation of choice—making it a most comprehensive holiday treat.

With SuperFerry Sail Away packages, you can take pleasure in a hassle-free, prearranged getaway! Start your fantasy vacation onboard the SuperFerry, where you can enjoy and take advantage of amenities and facilities. With warm, friendly crew, SuperFerry promises the vacation you've always dreamed of!

So, book your dream vacation onboard the SuperFerry now and spend luxurious days in picturesque beaches and spectacular tourist hubs!

Sail Away packages are offered in premier destinations, such as Cebu, Coron, Bohol & Boracay and other tourist spots included in SuperFerry's 20 ports of call.

For customized Sail Away packages and other details, visit www.SuperFerry.com.ph or call Group Sales at 528-7100.



INQ TV

LAST CALL!
Deadline: June 13

The InqTV News Video SHOOTOUT

Report the news that you know best, and earn the chance to win P100,000!

Submit an 8-minute news video report about a local or personal issue of public interest by June 3, 2005. InqTV will air the most outstanding entries on nationwide TV, during its sixth season (from July to October this year). The best news video report wins a package of exciting prizes, including P100,000 in cash!

Interested? Read the competition rules and study the sample script on http://inqtv.inquirer.com.ph. Watch InqTV every week on ABC. And get involved in public issues. Questions? Email them to inqtv@inquirer.com.ph. Then get to work! Research, report, produce, write, edit, then send your work in, for the chance to tell your story to a national audience and win P100,000.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Citizen journalism is the wave of the future

Now brewing at Powerplant's latest venue for special events:

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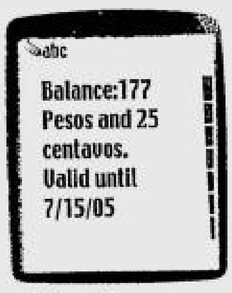
Good news to all Sun Prepaid Subscribers!

In line with our efforts to upgrade our system, we are pleased to inform you that our prepaid account information service has been made even better.

Starting June 6, 2005 onwards, get real time updates on your service validity when you load 24/7 Call & Text Unlimited or 24/7 Text Unlimited. What's more, when you do balance inquiry, you'll get an update of your regular load and the validity of your 24/7 service.

The screens below reflect the messages you'll receive when you load or do balance inquiry via 221.

1. If you only have regular load



abc

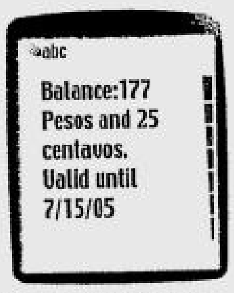
Balance:177 Pesos and 25 centavos. Valid until 7/15/05

Note: Date reflects the validity of your account

2. If you have 24/7 Call & Text Unlimited

First Text Message

a. If you have regular load:



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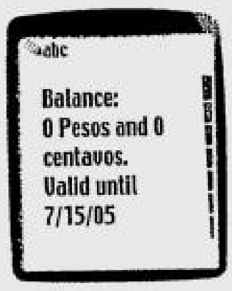
Balance:177 Pesos and 25 centavos. Valid until 7/15/05

b. If you don't have regular load:



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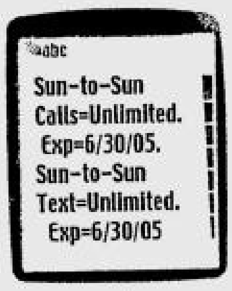
Balance: 0 Pesos and 0 centavos. Valid until 7/15/05

Note: Date reflects the validity of your account

Second Text Message

Indicates your 24/7 Call & Text Unlimited service validity:



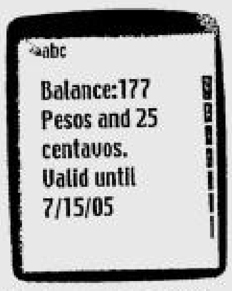
abc

Sun-to-Sun Calls=Unlimited. Exp=6/30/05. Sun-to-Sun Text=Unlimited. Exp=6/30/05

3. If you have 24/7 Text Unlimited

First Text Message

a. If you have regular load:



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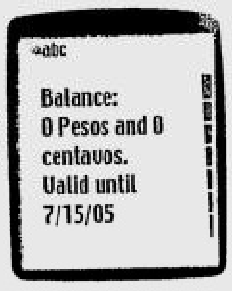
Balance:177 Pesos and 25 centavos. Valid until 7/15/05

b. If you don't have regular load:



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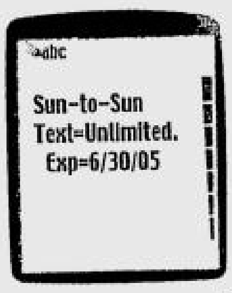
Balance: 0 Pesos and 0 centavos. Valid until 7/15/05

Note: Date reflects the validity of your account

Second Text Message

Indicates your 24/7 Text Unlimited service validity:



abc

Sun-to-Sun Text=Unlimited. Exp=6/30/05

Now, there's no need to text STATUS to 248 to get the validity of your 24/7 service! Simply do any of the following:

- Dial *221# then press SEND to receive a text update on your regular load balance and your 24/7 Unlimited service validity.
- Dial 221 to receive a voice update on your regular load balance. As soon as you hang up, you will receive a text update on your 24/7 Unlimited service validity.
- Dial 220 to access the Prepaid Menu. Press 2 after the voice prompt to receive a voice update on your regular load balance. As soon as you hang up, you will receive a text update on your 24/7 Unlimited service validity.

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Tim Yap
Festival International du Film
Cannes 2005

PENELOPE Cruz, promoting her film "Bandidas" with Salma Hayek at the red carpet

RAJO RULES. Our red carpet moment: Tim Yap and Claudine Trillo-Webb in Rajo Laurel

THE 58TH Cannes Film Festival is still dominated by auteur directors respected worldwide

NOT MILAN, BUT CANNES. Claudine Barretto and Piolo Pascual, stars of Star Cinema's "Milan," at the Cannes Film Festival

Why? Because I Cannes!

Celebrating celluloid class at the 58th Cannes Film Festival

I'VE SEEN and walked many red carpets in my line of work.

From my first job as altar boy to my present occupation as glitz biz observer, I have always been fascinated by the pomp and pageantry from romping down that red carpet that it even entered my mind to rouge up the flooring in my house.

But this was no ordinary red carpet, for it was the red carpet for one of the most important film festivals in the world. "A lot of people spend time at Cannes trying to get into the right places and be seen rubbing shoulders with the right people," said Us Weekly's **Sophie Vokes-Dudgeon.**

We didn't need to, because our host was Mouton Cadet, the wine of choice for the festival—and here in Manila as well—in the best bars, restaurants and clubs in town, thanks to **Tita Trillo** of Titania Wines.

We stayed at Hotel Martinez, where festival director and two time Palm D'Or winner **Emir Kusturica**, actress **Salma Hayek**, model **Tyson Beckford** and other celebrities stayed. I even met **Naomi's** dog roaming around the lobby with a Swarovski studded collar. The hotel on La Croisette was cordoned off with fans outside eagerly awaiting the stars who stayed within the confines of the famed hotel. I would wave at them and pose for pictures each time I arrived at the lobby. They either thought I was a Korean action star or a drop out from American Idol.

MOUTON CADET SPOKESMAN. Julian de Rothschild knows his wines

Four-hour feasts

Mouton Cadet made sure that each day and night was filled with gastronomic four-hour lunches and dinners that brought wining and dining to another level. Wine heir **Julian de Rothschild**, who is only in his late 20s, hosted the after-gala dinner of the Palm D'Or winning film, a puzzling (when it ends, you'll go "huh?") docu-drama about today's youth entitled "L'Enfant." More than the winning Belgian film, it was Julian who inspired myself and **Claudine Trillo-Webb** to take up wine school in the future.

Speaking of Claudine, she and Miss Mouton Cadet **Maris Dimayuga** were such a hit that everyone was taking snapshots of them—even when they were just walking on the street. Each night, we would go out with nightlife king **Louie Ysmael** as he proved that his royalty extended beyond our shores. He was even able to catch the Grand Prix in Monaco right before the Mouton Cadet red carpet gala. We also heard that our very own **Claudine Barretto** and **Piolo Pascual** were very well received by the international audiences—*mabuhay*!

Claudine Barretto, Claudine Trillo-Webb and I have one thing in com-

WHY/G2

OUTSIDE HOTEL MARTINEZ. Mouton Cadet's Laurent, Tita Trillo, Louie Ysmael, Anne of Mouton Cadet and Mariz Dimayuga, Miss Mouton Cadet first runner-up

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POSING BY THE LA CROISETTE STRIP. [illegible] Claudine Barretto and Marjorie Barretto on a [illegible]

PINOY ALL-STAR DELEGATION. Claudine Barretto, [illegible] Marjorie Barretto and [illegible]

Why? Because I Cannes!

From page G1

mon—we all wore Rajo Laurel for our red carpet moment. He made me a classic tuxedo with giant lapels. To top it, he attached a giant silk brooch made from different fabrics strewn together and I wore my Swarovski New Yorker cumberband. When this French member of the Cannes jury saw this, she asked me, "Is this (referring to the brooch) typically Filipino?" I answered back, "It is inspired by the sarimanok—the Filipino peacock." Whew! And Tita Trillo thought it was a rag.

Festival Highlights

To salute the participants, a "Patrouille de France," a parade of jets welcomed the delegates. Each night that followed was one party after another, with big studios hosting parties to outdo one another.

More than the glitz and the glam, what was important here was that everybody from all parts of the world was there to celebrate stories on celluloid.

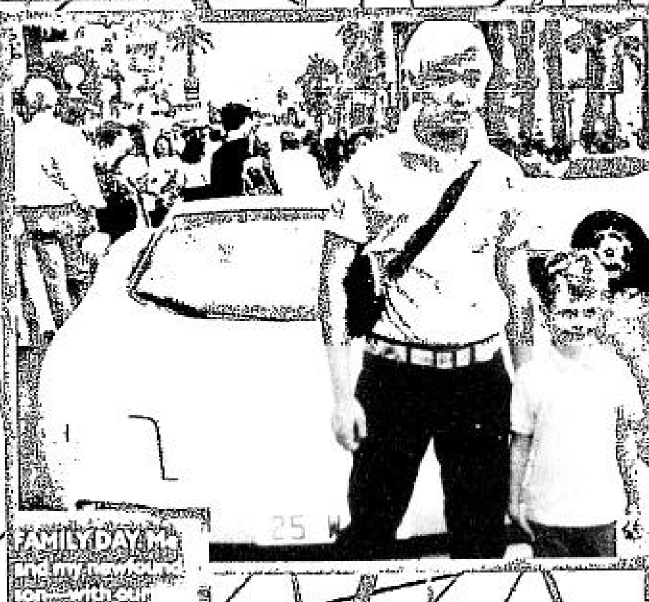
And that you get a picture taken with Salma Hayek. I know I did.

OH, SALMITA! Latina sensation Salma Hayek and me, my [illegible]

POST GRAND PRIX: [illegible]

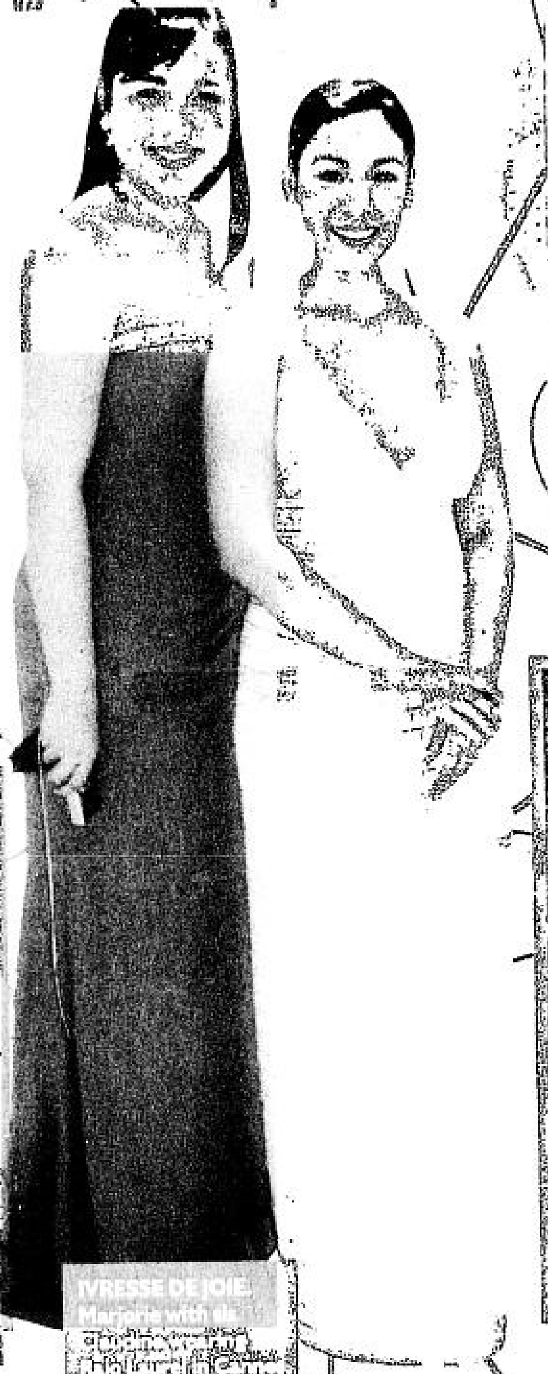
SANDARA'S LONG LOST RELATIVES: [illegible]

SO CLOSE, SO FAR: [illegible]



FAMILY DAY: Me and my [illegible] with our newfound [illegible]

YELLOW BELLE: Tita Trillo in [illegible] by [illegible]



IVRESSE DE JOIE: Marjorie with [illegible] Rajo Laurel in Cannes

Partying at VIP in Cannes

IF YOU think the parade ended at the red carpet, another form of festivity was happening at the end of the La Croisette strip. The good, the bad and the beautiful all gather at VIP—the club that hits its high notes during the festival. Sophie Vokes-Dudgeon, from Us Weekly Magazine, says it's the parties that make Cannes what it is. And with Mouton Cadet wine flowing, who can complain?

From MTV's big and bold shindig to Sharon Stone's charity fundraiser and Naomi Campbell's birthday party—it was one bodacious bang after another. "It's bringing Hollywood to the Riviera." Thank you, Mouton Cadet!

[illegible]

[illegible]

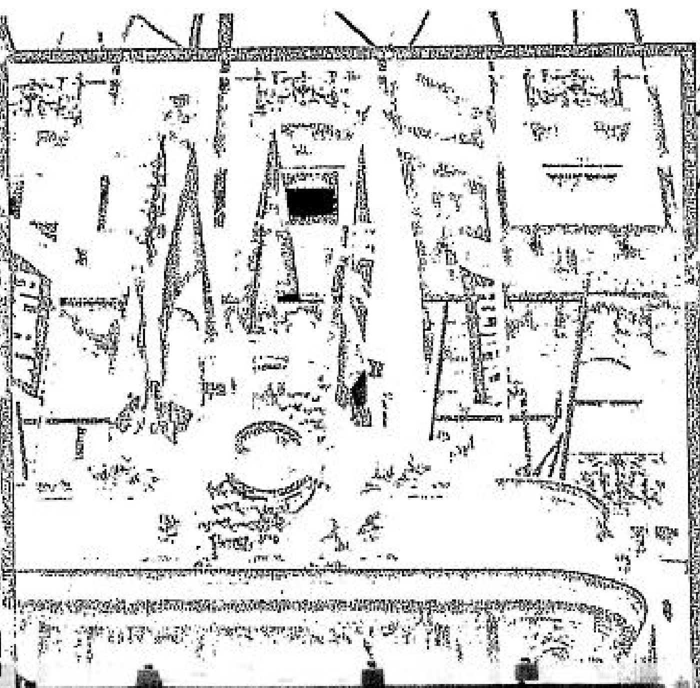
FRENCH SOLDIERS. [illegible]

HATS OFF TO YOU: [illegible] the dance floor

THUMBS UP, OFFICER: VIP, the hottest club in Cannes

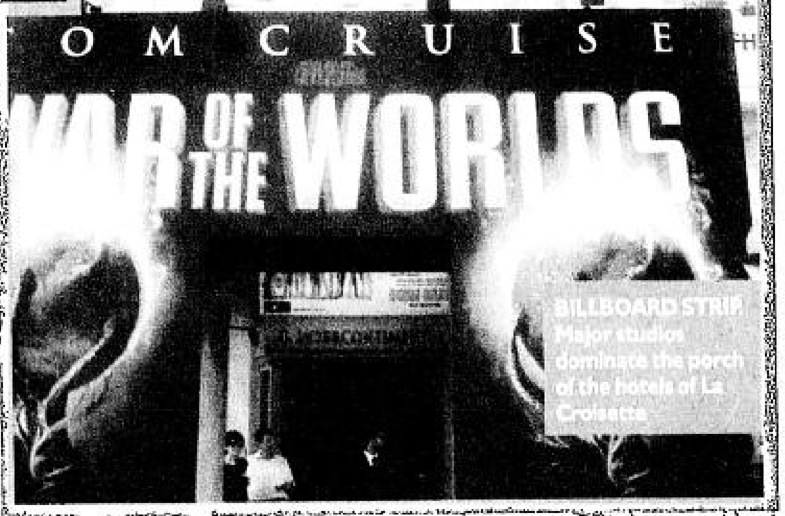
[illegible]

ELIZABETHTOWN: [illegible]



LUNCH AT THE CHATEAU: [illegible] of Mouton Cadet with Tita Trillo [illegible] Chef Jacques Chibois

ORIENTAL SEDUCTION: Zhang Ziyi [illegible] the red carpet

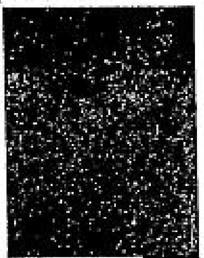


BILLBOARD STRIP: Major studios dominate the porch of the hotels of La Croisette

KISS KISS BANG BANG: Claudine Webb and Marie Dimayuga pucker up

LOWER POWER: [illegible] Chateau in Grasse, France

CASTING COUP: [illegible]



VIP SEEN AT VIP: [illegible]

TWO FOR THE ROAD: [illegible]

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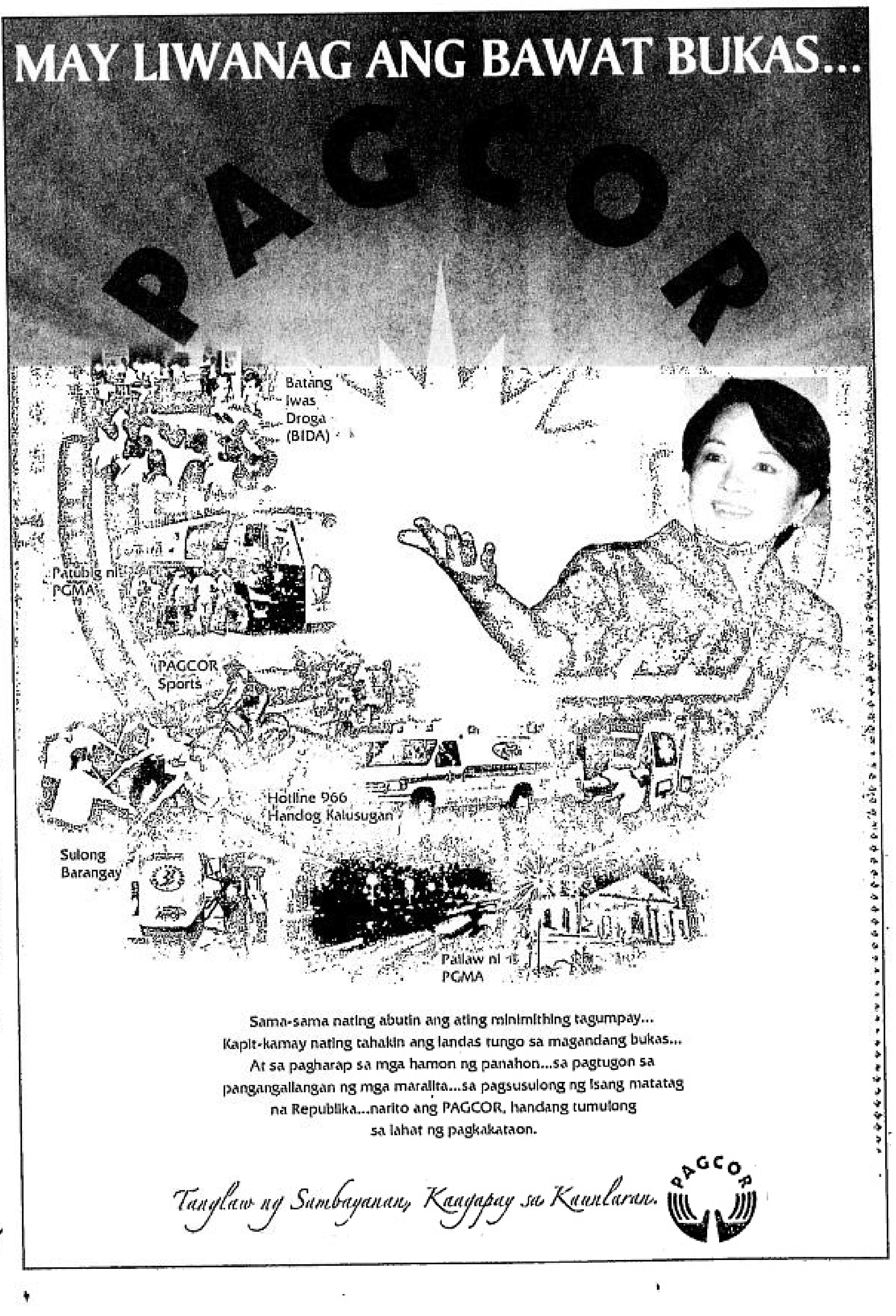

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Why?...

From page G3

SALSA CON CARNE. Milla Jovovich with Noemi Lenoir

JACKIE Chan doing a Kate Winslet impersonation

PINOY VICTORY IN CANNES: Claudine Barretto, Piolo Pascual and Marjorie Barretto

THREE BURIALS: Tommy Lee and January Jones

BANDIDA BEAUTY. Penelope Cruz, Latin superstar

BASIC RED CARPET INSTINCT. [illegible] Stone posing [illegible]

SOPHISTICATED. Bond girl Soph [illegible]

A EUROPEAN SENSATION. Vahina Giocante

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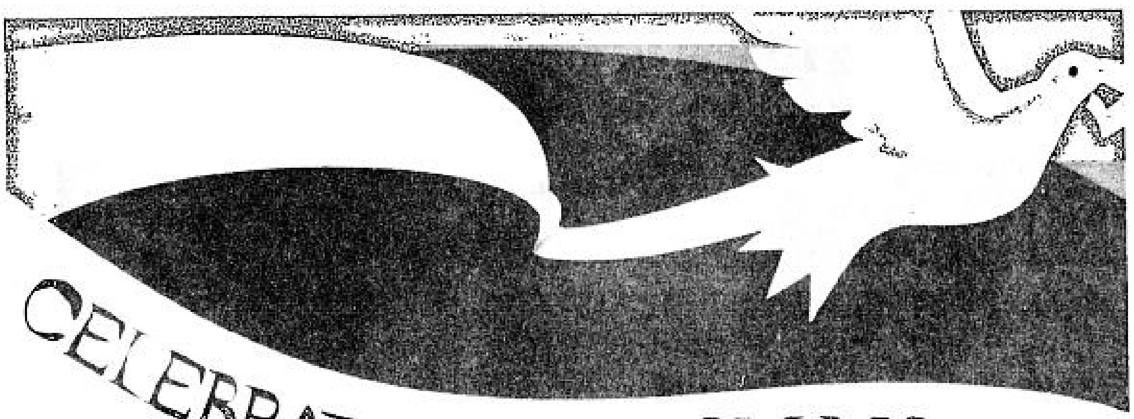

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